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National Pg 3

Jumbos raid villagers' farms



National Pg 5

Tangible benefits from conservation



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Residence turned into maternity ward



National Pg 11

Govt allocates 1.5bn/- to hospitals



WHO taps biosimilar drug for breast cancer

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday prequalified its first biosimilar medicine—trastuzumab—in a move that could make this expensive, life-saving treatment more affordable and available to women globally.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women, with about 2.1 million women contracting breast cancer in 2018 and 630,000 of them dying from the disease. Many had late diagnosis and lacked access to affordable treatment.

Trastuzumab - a monoclonal antibody - was included in the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015 as an essential treatment for about 20 per cent of breast cancers. It has shown high efficacy in curing early stage breast cancer and in some cases more advanced forms of the disease.

"WHO prequalification of biosimilar trastuzumab is good news for women everywhere," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General.

"Women in many cultures suffer from gender disparity when it comes to accessing health services. In poor countries, there is the added burden of a lack of access to treatment for many, and the high cost of medicines. Effective, affordable breast cancer treatment



WHO prequalification of biosimilar trastuzumab is good news for women everywhere, says WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

should be a right for all women, not the privilege of a few."

The global average cost of trastuzumab from originator companies is \$20,000 and that is a price that puts it out of reach of many women and healthcare systems in most countries. The biosimilar version of trastuzumab is generally 65 per cent cheaper than the originator.

With this WHO listing and more products expected in the prequalification pipeline, prices should decrease even further.

The medicine, supplied by Samsung Bioepis NL B.V. (Netherlands), was assessed by WHO and found comparable to the originator product in terms of efficacy, safety and quality. That means it is eligible for procurement by United Nations agencies and for national tenders.

Biotherapeutic medicines, which are produced from biological sources such as cells rather than synthesized chemicals, are important treatments for some cancers and other non-communicable diseases. Like generic medicines, biosimilars can be much less expensive versions of innovator biotherapeutics while keeping the same effectiveness. They are usually manufactured by other companies once the patent on the

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JPM: Seek expert counsel before building in valleys



Freeman Aikaeli Mbowe, national Chairman of the opposition Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema), addresses the party's general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Items on the agenda included the election of the party's top leaders. Photo: Correspondent Miraj Msaia

By Guardian Reporter

THE Chadema director of legal affairs, Tundu Lissu, yesterday appealed to his party to assist him to return to the country so that he continue reinforcing the leading opposition party.

Lissu (pictured) was speaking through video conference at the party's central committee meeting ahead of yesterday's election of the party national chairman and other top leaders.

He told the gathering that he was physically fit and was ready to come back.

Before his speech, the party secretary general Dr Vicent Mashinji informed the meeting that the former Parliamentary Chief Whip is in the Belgian capital, Brussels, where he was receiving treatment since January 2018 after surviving an assassination attempt in September 2017. He was hit at least 16 times by unidentified assailants.

"I appeal to you to do everything you can so that

Lissu makes video conference as Chadema central committee met



I come back home as soon as possible," Lissu appealed to members of the party congregation.

He did not state what support he exactly wants from his party, but recently Lissu was being quoted saying he failed to return home for security concerns.

In a recent interview, Lissu said that he will return home after being assured of his security by party leaders.

In the afternoon of September 7, 2017 during a parliamentary session break, Lissu, whilst in his car, was shot multiple times and seriously injured by unidentified assailants (the so-called unknown people who engaged in

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I know there have been calls from various corners but let me insist that I will not even bother to add even a day to my presidency because the time mentioned in the constitution is enough

By Guardian Reporter

BARELY a day after floods wreaked havoc in Dar es Salaam, President John Magufuli has asked Tanzanians to consult experts before constructing houses to avoid catastrophe, which he said is caused by building residential houses in flood prone areas.

Flood water drenched and damaged many constructions in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, with a number of infrastructures such as roads, bridges and houses being badly damaged. The situation also made commuting a hassle due to abnormal traffic jams.

Bridges like Jangwani, Kamanyola and their connecting roads were all submerged, thus leading to the closure of road services for a better part of the day.

Speaking when he officially opened eight water wells at Chato Primary School in Geita Region, built by the Islamic Foundation with funding from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the president gave an example of the Msimbazi valley where many of its residents have blocked drainage paths, causing water to fill up in the surroundings.



It is sad that people do not think of the calamities that follow and then end up blaming the government

"People have blocked waterways and they end up complaining that they have been hit by floods. Please let us consult before constructing anything," he cautioned.

It is sad that people do not think of the calamities that follow and then end up blaming the government, he stated.

President Magufuli used the opportunity to reiterate his earlier statement that he will not add a single minute to his presidency when his tenure ends.

"I know there have been calls from various corners but let me insist that I will not even bother to add even a day to my presidency because the time mentioned in the constitution is enough," he said.

Earlier, President Magufuli launched a new building at Chato District Court, opening doors for more people in the area to access justice.

Speaking shortly after the launch, the president hailed the Judiciary for coordinated efforts in completing the building.

The new building will facilitate the law organs to address various challenges as people will no longer have to travel long distances searching for judicial processes.

Previously, people had to travel to Biharamulo District in Kagera Region to

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Human development scores: Tanzania ranks 159 out of 189

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA has registered impressive progress in human development since 1990 though it still ranks among the low human developed countries, the Human Development Report 2019 launched yesterday has shown.

The report titled, 'Beyond income, beyond average, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century' compiled by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicates that Tanzania's human development index (HDI) for 2018 was 0.528 or around half of what is desired.

This HDI value put the country in the low human development category—positioning it at 159 out of 189 countries and territories. The rank



Exploring inequalities in human development thus has to go beyond income, beyond averages and beyond today, the report emphasized

is shared with Uganda.

Between 1990 and 2018, Tanzania's HDI value increased from 0.373 to 0.528, an increase of 41.8 percent as life expectancy at birth increased by 14.8 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.4 years and expected years of schooling increased by 2.5 years. Tanzania's gross national income (GNI) per capita increased by about 88.2 percent between 1990 and 2018, the report indicated.

"Tanzania's 2018 HDI of 0.528 is above the average of 0.507 for countries in the low human development group and below the average of 0.541 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa," it says.

In the gender inequality index (DII), the

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President John Magufuli and Al-Hikma Foundation president Sheikh Shariff Abdulqadir are joined by Geita Region religious leaders yesterday as they unveil a plaque to symbolise the laying of the foundation stone of what is planned as Chato District's 1.6bn/- Al Huda Mosque. Photo: State House

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attend court cases.

"Inmates also were spending up to two years in prison without being brought to court...so this building is a great relief as it will help reduce congestion in our prisons."

Ongoing improvements of facilities under the Judiciary will increase access

of judicial services and ensuring justice is delivered in the right time.

Earlier, Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma commended the government for increasing budget allocations for the Judiciary Department every year.

He also said that the Judiciary is still in dire need of more court facilities as most of them are dilapidated.

For his part, Commissioner General of the Fire and Rescue Force (FRF), Thobias Andengeny commended the government for valuing the force by capacitating it with essential needs to fulfill its duties.

"The Fire and Rescue Force has been improved in the past few years, like improving key infrastructures and working environment - something

which has increased performance."

President Magufuli also laid a foundation stone for the construction of a fire and rescue building in the district.

Residents who attended the event hailed the government, saying the facility would cut down expenses which the residents were incurring to seek judicial services elsewhere.

Human development scores: Tanzania ranks 159 out of 189

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report shows that in Tanzania 37.2 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 11.9 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 16.9 percent of their male counterparts.

For every 100,000 live births, 398.0 women die from pregnancy related causes and the adolescent birth rate is 118.4 births per 1,000 women of ages 15-19. Female participation in the labour market is 79.4 percent compared to 87.2 for men.

Speaking at the launch of the report, UNDP Resident Representative Christine Musisi said in most countries many people have poor prospects for a better future. "Lacking hope, purpose or dignity, they watch from society's sidelines as they see others pull ahead to ever greater prosperity."

Worldwide, many have escaped extreme poverty but even more have neither the opportunities nor the resources to control their lives. "Far too often gender, ethnicity or parents' wealth still determines a person's place in society," she elaborated.

These inequalities in human development are a roadblock to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are not just about disparities in incomes and wealth, and they will shape the prospects of people that may live to see the 22nd century, she told the audience.

Exploring inequalities in human development thus has to go beyond income, beyond averages and beyond today, the report emphasized.

While many people are stepping above minimum floors of achievement in human development, widespread disparities remain.

The first two decades of the 21st century have seen remarkable progress in reducing extreme deprivations, but gaps remain unacceptably wide for a range of capabilities, the freedoms for people to be and do desirable things such as go to school, get a job or have

enough to eat, it stated.

A new generation of severe inequalities in human development is emerging, even if many of the unresolved inequalities of the 20th century are declining, it further noted.

Under the shadow of the climate crisis and sweeping technological change, inequalities in human development are taking new forms in the 21st century, while inequalities in capabilities are evolving in different ways, it stated.

In some cases, quite dramatically, such global inequalities characterize life expectancy at birth. Many people at the bottom are now reaching the initial stepping stones of human development, it affirms.

At the same time, inequalities are increasing in enhanced capabilities—which reflect aspects of life likely to become more important in the future because they will be more empowering. "Inequalities in human development can accumulate through life, frequently by deep power imbalances. They are not so much a cause of unfairness as a consequence, driven by factors deeply embedded in societies, economies and political structures," it reads in part.

Redressing inequalities in human development in the 21st century is possible—if we act now, before imbalances in economic power translate into entrenched political dominance. Improvements in inequality for some basic capabilities show that progress is possible.

But the record of progress in basic capabilities in the past will not respond to people's aspirations for this century.

Officiating at the launch of the report, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Adolf Mkenda noted that the report will help the government to find the way forward in identified challenges.

"The report will form the basis of discussions on how to steer the nation further in the quest for industrial and middle income economy," he declared.

Lissu makes video conference as Chadema central committee met

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largely mysterious cases of kidnapping and killing) in the parking lot of his parliamentary residence in Area D, Dodoma.

Party national chairman Freeman Mbowe did not address the appeal by Lissu, and instead urged the

government to call civil polls afresh to reinforce relations between people and their leaders.

The current political situation is not appealing as the country is being divided, he declared.

He also asked the office of Registrar of Political Parties to stick to rules and regulations governing political parties

Kurya elders seek dialogue with DC over FGM and unsafe circumcision

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

KURYA elders from the Wairegi clan have asked the Tarime District Commissioner in Mara Region Mtemi Msafiri to sit together and discuss the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM) and circumcision, including their children being taken away to Masanga Girls Centre without their consent.

The traditional elders have presented the request when speaking to this paper following the ongoing arrests in the district of those conducting FGM and unsafe male circumcision in Muriba, Nyantira, Kabori, Itiry, Bungurere, Masanga, Kimusi, Gibaso and Tagare villages where more than 60 people have been detained on the alleged orders of the DC.

Speaking on behalf of fellow clan members James Gasaya, the Secretary of traditional customs for the Bwirege clan, and Gimung'aya Chacha, their Deputy Chairman, and John Thomas, one of the elders said they are not opposed to unsafe circumcision and FGM, but they oppose to the rampant arrests of wananchi many of who are not involved in the practices.

They said: "Before the incident of the killing of Justin Uogo, a teacher of Itiry Secondary school on November 14 this year, we traditional elders gave a written statement on October 29 this year to state apparatuses about acts that breach the peace on the youths who were preparing themselves to be circumcised, we have been preventing such acts but authorities were not listening, as the

leaders who we addressed did not take any action."

They added: "In the letter we explained that any youth found in the streets about to breach the peace should be arrested because the schools had not been closed, but this request was not adhered to."

Gasaya said they are surprised to see traditional elders being arrested some of who are more than 80 years old, after the incident of the teacher's death and unsafe FGM and circumcision; hence we request to sit together with DC Mtemi for in depth discussion so that people live in peace.

The elders also aired their complaints on the issue of their girls who have undergone FGM being arrested and placed in custody while they still had wounds being denied of basic needs such as medical treatment and water for cleaning themselves.

The other issue the elders want to discuss with the DC is the arrest of girls from their villages without ant taken to Masanga Girls Centre without their consent.

The paper contacted the DC who said he had already met this year with the elders and had them sign an agreement on FGM and circumcision as well as patrols and security in their areas.

He said: "FGM is widespread and is being exacerbated by the elders from the Wairegi clan even though many directives and seminars were given to them about the hazards of these acts they never listened. Hence we shall arrest and take legal action against anyone who will be conducting such acts."



Residents of Dar es Salaam's Tandale suburb, including the one with a megaphone (L), cash in on the heavy rain the city experienced on Tuesday by demanding a fee from anyone using their makeshift 'bridge' after the one previously there was swept away by floodwaters. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

WHO taps biosimilar drug for breast cancer

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original product has expired.

A few biosimilars of trastuzumab have come to market in the last five years, but none had been prequalified by WHO before today. WHO prequalification gives countries the assurance that they are purchasing

quality health products.

A recent study of breast cancer in sub-Saharan Africa found that of 1,325 women surveyed in three countries, cancer treatment had not been initiated within one year of diagnosis for 227 (17 per cent) women and for 185 (14 per cent) women with stage I-III disease. Self-reported treatment

barriers confirmed treatment costs as a major contributor to not receiving treatment.

WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer estimates that by 2040 the number of diagnosed breast cancers will reach 3.1 million, with the greatest increase in low- and middle-income countries.

"We need to act now and try to avoid more preventable deaths," says Dr Mariângela Simão, WHO Assistant Director General for Medicines and Health Products. "The availability of biosimilars has decreased prices, making even innovative treatments more affordable and hopefully available to more people."



Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (3rd-L) listens as NMB Bank Plc head of card business Philbert Casmir addresses motorcycle taxi riders (bodaboda) using the bank's MasterPass QR, a recently introduced service offering customers a safe and convenient mobile digital payment option at a seminar for. With them (2nd-L) is NMB head of government business Vicky Bishubo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Villagers request DC to take action against elephants eating their crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FARMERS at Lengast village, Naisinyai Ward, in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region have complained that elephants have been invading their farms and eat crops.

Speaking on Tuesday before the Simanjiro District Commissioner (DC) Zephania Chaula during his visit to the village, the villagers said elephants had become a big menace to them.

One of the elders, Kanunga Lembesei said following the menace, they were requesting the government to take actions to place at bay the beasts, as the farmers were now doing farming for no gain to themselves.

Another resident Rebecca lazier said government leaders should intervene before the animals start

attacking people after finishing with the crops.

"The government said it will not distribute food as assistance, hence people must cultivate, and we have done just that but elephants have invaded our farms and destroyed the crops and we are unable to do anything about it," he added.

However, the Simanjiro DC Zephania Chaula called on the villagers not to approach the elephants whenever they see them, as it should not happen like what happened at Lemkuna village recently when elephants killed one person.

He said: "Whenever there are problems from elephants you have to report to the village leader who will refer the issue to wildlife officials for compensation."

By Felister Peter, Zanzibar

ZUPS helps improve Zanzibar per capita food expenditure, education services

THE Zanzibar Universal Social Pension Scheme (ZUPS) has led to an improvement in per capita food expenditure, education and health services, according to new research findings by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF).

The pension scheme specially for senior citizens was introduced in April 2016 and has far covered 27,930 elders in both Unguja and Pemba islands. The scheme involves Zanzibaris aged 70 years and above who receive 20,000/- every month.

Presenting research findings here yesterday during a two days dissemination workshop to assess impact of the pension scheme on recipients and their families, Researcher, Zakayo Zacharia said the arrangement has

resulted into increased expenditure at family level by 3,293/- (\$1.34). He said beneficiaries' can now have three meals a day.

Zacharia noted that although the elders receive free medical treatment at hospital and health centres, the elders sometimes forced to use monies they get through ZUPS to purchase medicines. He said most elders have added 7,533/- in their monthly medical expenditure.

"We have realised that empowering elders helps to reduce the number of dependants. Most elders in Zanzibar depend on ZUPS as their main source of income, with a few relying on family members", said the Researcher.

On education, the researcher revealed

that most of the senior citizens also spend 6,532/- (\$2.84) to assist in purchasing various school needs for children in their families.

Zanzibar Deputy Health Minister, Mwanaharusi Said Suleiman stated that the government spends 7.2bn/- annually for the universal pension scheme. She insisted that all the monies are sourced locally and has been allocated in its budgets since 2016.

"The government has been taking care of the senior citizens since 1964 where it started by constructing special elders houses as well as providing them with essential needs such as shelter, food and monthly allowance", she noted adding even those living outside the elders

house's are also supported.

Earlier, HelpAge International Country Director, Smart Daniel said Zanzibar has become the first to introduce the universal pension scheme in East and Centre Africa.

Daniel added that Zanzibar's ZUPS model has opened doors to elders in other countries such as Malawi, Kenya and Uganda. He said Kenya has already started to implement the scheme where Malawi is finalizing procedures for the same.

The two days workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry for Elders, Empowerment, Youth, Women and Children in Zanzibar and HelpAge International with the support from Irish

Aid.

Montserrat Pejuan, Social Policy Specialist from UNICEF said the social protection scheme in Zanzibar is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Number 2 which targets to reduce poverty.

Pejuan said although UNICEF deals with children issues, it also promotes a life circle approach since people face various challenges at all stages of life.

She noted the organisation is working with stakeholders and the government to establish similar social protection schemes for children, school meals for primary schools and cash transfers for the disabled.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO SERVE AS AN EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR AFRICA ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (AAPH)

1.0 AAPH Overview
Officially established in 2009, the Africa Academy for Public Health (AAPH) is an independent non-profit, non governmental organization registered in Tanzania with the mission to address public health priority challenges in sub-Saharan Africa through innovative scientific evidence, training & capacity building and knowledge translation.

The AAPH aims to contribute to the development of public health professionals who are equipped to address identified gaps in delivery of health systems and health services research. The AAPH provides a platform for north-south and south-south learning to develop collaborative sustainable research as well as programs, with the aim of benefiting population health within our region.

The organisation is based in, Dar es Salaam Tanzania. The organisation wishes to appoint an External Auditor to audit its accounts for the financial year that ends on 31st December 2019.

2.0 Scope of the Audit
The auditors will be required to conduct audit review as follows:

- I. The auditors shall express an independent professional opinion according to International Standards of Auditing (ISA) on whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AAPH in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).
- II. The audit shall be carried out in accordance with the National Standards of Auditing as issued by National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA)
- III. The audit shall be carried out by an external, independent and qualified auditor (certified Public Accountant).
- IV. The auditors shall examine, assess and report on compliance with relevant policies/process/procedures and applicable laws and regulations regarding accounting.
- V. All necessary supporting documents, records and accounts have been kept in respect of all Centre ventures. Clear linkages should exist between the books of accounts and financial statements.

3.0 Deliverables
3.1 Audit Opinion and Report
The auditors shall provide audit opinion on financial statement and detailed report as follows:

- I. The audit report shall contain details regarding used audit methodology and scope of the audit.
- II. The aim and scope of statutory audit, the criteria applied, where relevant and any restriction imposed on the scope of the audit.
- III. The financial statement with disclosures and the accounting principles applied.

A report stating clearly the auditors' opinion of the financial statement.

3.2 Management Letter
I. In addition to the audit report, auditors will prepare a Management Letter which will:
Give comments and observations on the accounting records,

system and controls that were examined during the course of the audit.

- II. Identify specific deficiencies and areas of weakness in systems and controls and make recommendations for their improvement.
- III. Communicate matters that have come to the auditor's attention during the audit which might have a significant impact on the implementation of the Centre activities.
- IV. Bring to attention any matter considered pertinent during the course of the audit.
- V. Examine, assess and report on compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement between funding partners and AAPH also report compliance with applicable national laws and regulations.
- VI. Examine and report on appropriateness of the supporting documents, records and books of accounts relating to Centre activities.

4.0 Selection Criteria
If you are a registered firm of Auditors and you wish to be considered to conduct this assignment, please apply giving the following information.

- I. Eligibility - authorization by the National Board of Accountants and Auditors to conduct audits.
- II. Profile of the firm including personnel and their qualifications
- III. Details of the similar work undertaken
- IV. Proposed fee for the engagement including a schedule for additional services that may be necessary beyond the scope of the audit engagement. The proposal should indicate anticipated fees for the second and third years should they be appointed.
- V. Detailed audit plan/methodology including your approach to risk and fraud detection.
- VI. Estimated time required to complete the audit by classification of your employees.
- VII. Availability to start the auditing process from Feb 2020.

5.0 Proposal Submission
5.1 While submitting the Proposal, interested parties are required to submit, one complete Technical and one Financial proposal documents clearly marked "ORIGINAL" and the second Technical and Financial documents marked "COPY" properly filled and enclosed in plain envelopes marked TENDER No. EA/AAPH/2019/A/001 FOR REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO SERVE AS AN EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR AFRICA ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (AAPH).

5.2 The sealed bids shall be submitted PHYSICALLY at the AAPH Office located in the 5th Floor, CM Plaza Building, Plot 802 Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikocheni P.O. Box 32273 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. In case of Postal submission, the date of receipt at the AAPH Reception shall be considered as submission date, and the Closing date for Bid Submission is 2nd January 2020 at 14:00 Hrs.

5.3 No electronic submission will be accepted.

For more information about AAPH please visit our website <http://www.aaph-tz.org>. Only shortlisted Firms will be contacted. Please note that this advert contains full Terms of Reference, hence no further tender documents are available.

AFRICA ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (AAPH)



Airtel Tanzania agent Joseph Mlaki (L, seated) re-registers an Arusha city resident's SIM-card under the biometric system yesterday – only days before the year-end deadline. It was at the launch of nationwide sensitisation campaign meant to ensure that “no one is left behind”. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Negotiations between DPP office and Kabendera ongoing – defence lawyer

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam's Kisumu resident magistrate was yesterday told that negotiations between the office of Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) and journalist Erick Kabendera, who faces economic sabotage charges, are still ongoing.

Kabendera was initially arrested late July after police said his citizenship was questionable and he was later charged with economic crimes including

money laundering and tax evasion—charges that do not allow bail.

Defence lawyer Jebra Kambole said: “When the case was adjourned two weeks ago we were directed to inform the court about the progress of plea bargaining talks between the DPP's office and the defence side; I hereby inform the court that the talks are still ongoing.”

According to Kambole, the defence will keep the court informed about the progress of the negotiation.

Kisumu resident magistrate, Janeth Mtega adjourned the case until January 2, 2020.

Earlier on State Attorney, Wankyo Simon told the court that investigation on Kabendera's case was yet to be completed.

Kabendera faces charges of money laundering, tax evasion and involvement in organised crime.

According to the prosecution, on diverse dates between January 2015 and July 2019 in Dar es Salaam, and with

other persons, the accused knowingly facilitated a criminal racket.

The state further claims that the accused (in the second offence) failed to pay taxes amounting to 173,247m/- that was payable to the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

In the third and final count, the journalist is accused of obtaining Sh173,247 million, while knowing that the said money was the proceeds of offences, namely: tax evasion and involvement in organised crime.

‘Culture of secrecy’ blamed for fueling abuses against children

By Aisia Rweyemamu

A culture of secrecy has been blamed as one of the factors that fuels violence against children including sexual abuse in Tanzania as most of the incidents are committed by family members—parents, guardians and relatives.

This is the view of Anna Mhina, Principal Community Development Officer from the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

She was speaking on Tuesday in Kisarawe District at the official launch of the national campaign to fight Early and Unintended Pregnancy (EUP).

The event was coordinated by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in collaboration with the Office of District Commissioner for Kisarawe and the Tanzania Interfaith Partnership. The campaign is meant to engage relevant stakeholders and motivate policy responses, social and behavioural changes that will contribute to reducing and ultimately eliminating early and unintended pregnancy among adolescents in the country. “This contributes to the rise of the problem because most of the cases ended at the family level without reporting to relevant agencies. And this is mostly contributed by the culture of secrecy,” Anna said.

“Even if the case is taken to the court it fails to proceed due to the lack of evidence because they are scared to risk their relations if they will provide the truth that will convict the suspect,” she said. “For not reporting such kind of violence to the relevant authorities it empowers those who practice it to continue,” she explained.

The officer explained that early pregnancy continue to be a serious problem in the country as the latest report show that 27 per cent of children between 15-19 they get pregnant at that age.

The leading regions for having the highest number of early pregnancies are Katavi with 45 per cent followed by Tabora (43 per cent).

Anna also cited lack of child protection and immorality in the family as another factor contributing to the increase of such uncouth practices.

Speaking at the event, the District Commissioner for Kisarawe, Jokate Mwegelo explained that, from January to October this year, a total of 40 students, 38 from secondary and 2 from primary school in Kisarawe

have dropped out from school due to pregnant.

The DC noted that out of the 40 cases, only eight of them were taken to court and sentenced, adding: “This year they had successfully sentenced a father of 30 years for raping his four-year-old child.”

She explained that the remaining cases failed to continue because family members are defending the accused.

Jokate said in order to reduce the number of unintended pregnancy in Kisarawe, the district has decided to intervene and make sure legal actions take place when the incident happens.

“We will not tolerate anyone who will be involved in any case of student pregnancy,” she said.

Deputy minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government, Mwita Waitara directed the DC to make sure those who involved to pregnant 40 students were found within two weeks.

The minister has also warned against tendency of parents not reporting the cases to the relevant authorities, saying that the government will effectively make follow up and take action against them.

Waitara warned female students to stay away from actions that will lead to pregnancy; instead they should spend most of their time on academic issues.

The Tanzania Interfaith Partnership (TIP) Chairman Rev Canon Matonya said they will through preaches remind their believers on the negative impact of child violence in order to reduce the number.

For his part UNESCO representative Herman Mathias said they recognises the efforts made by government, religious institutions and stakeholders in the fight against children violence.

Herman said that to join the effort UNESCO launches a national campaign to end Early Unintended Pregnancy (EUP) with the slogan “Let's talk about childhood pregnancy, pregnancy at the right time”.

He said the campaign has two main objectives—to raise awareness of parents, teachers and community members about the negative consequences of early pregnancy as part of a campaign to end child pregnancy; and to influence the provision of life skills education, reproductive health and services including providing girls with alternative learning opportunities such as through adult education.

Households with better toilets increase to 62.4pc

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE number of households with better toilets in the country has increased up to 62.4 percent in 2019 from 34 percent in 2015, thanks to a two-year “The Home is Toilet” campaign conducted by the Ministry of Health.

This has been revealed by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu at the climax of the national Environment Cleanliness Week meeting involving district and regional Medical Officers and other stakeholders held here.

Minister Mwalimu said in the two years of the campaign households with better toilets have increased and those without toilets at all have gone down from 7.5 percent to 1.9.

He said for villages, households that have toilets increased from 743 to 3,311 and for the institutions they succeeded in improving water provision and cleanliness to the environment at 1,267 health centres, while the target was 1,000 health centres.

She said these achievements must not

be disregarded, adding that basically she conveys her thanks to stakeholders who worked in collaboration with the government for their participation in the campaign as the Ministry's plan is to attain 75 percent by June 2021.

She said on the issue of garbage dumps, the government has deliberate plans in improving dump sites especially those within urban centres.

She however said environmental destruction from solid waste has continued to be a big challenge in urban areas; hence the government has mobilised itself to facilitate concerned local government institutions to improve their existing infrastructures.

She said the government has prepared guidelines for investment on solid waste to woo investment so as to improve the entire efforts in the supervision of solid waste disposal in the country.

The minister said research show the country was losing at least one percent of its GDP due to poor environment management and 2012 World Bank Research showed that every year 450bn/- is lost due to poor environment.



Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (R) and Mwita Waitara (2nd-R), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) launch a campaign seeking an end to early and unintended pregnancies on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TARI set to produce quality seeds for various crops

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has mobilised itself to start producing quality seeds of various crops by using modern technology so as to stop depending on importing such seeds whose use currently accounts for 70 percent.

Speaking soon after the end of a two-day meeting that evaluated on TARI goals and putting in place new strategies that involved its directors

and managers from 18 research centres countrywide, TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said by using TARI farms, they can produce seeds that withstand diseases to help farmers get better crop yields.

He said: “We have not less than 18 research centres and each one has been allocated with strategic crops, for example TARI-Naliendele in Mtwara

has been tasked to produce cashew nuts, groundnuts and sesame seeds to cater for southern regions, and TARI-Ilonga in Morogoro has been tasked to produce seeds for sunflower, sorghum, maize, leguminous crops, root crops for Central Zone regions.”

Director for TARI-Naliendele DR Fortunatus Kapinga said shortage of cashew nuts and sesame seeds will be

history due to increase of production following the establishment of seed farms in regions that grow the crops including Tabora, Singida and Ruvuma.

Director of TARI-Tengeru in Arusha Region Dr Stephano Sebastian said already they have in place strategies to alleviate shortage of seeds for vegetable and fruit crops that are used

as raw materials in agro industries – including avocado, tomatoes and spinach.

For his part TARI-Ilonga Director in Morogoro Region Dr Joel Meriyo said their strategy in place is to produce 3,000 tonnes of quality seeds for sunflower that would produce not less than 60,000 tonnes of sunflower crop, the yields that will

reduce cooking oil dependency from imports.

TAZRI-Dakawa manager in Mvomero District well known for production of rice quality seeds Dr Andrew Ngereza said already they have researched on a much better rice seeds known as ‘Saro 5’ that withstands diseases from pests and drought whereas from one acre a farmer can get from 35 to 40 90-100kg bags of rice as opposed to traditional seeds whose yield is only bags of rice per acre.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) CEO Cyprian Luhemeja (R) and Advent Construction director Ajith Prasad pictured on Tuesday signing documents on an agreement relating to the implementation of Kimbiji water supply project. Those witnessing the event Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Dr Faustine Ndugulle and Kigamboni district commissioner Sarah Msafiri. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Extension officers urged to strive for the enhancement of economic growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga has called on extension officers in the country to put in place work plans that will enable the supervision and growth of farming, livestock and fisheries sectors so as to increase their contribution to the country's economic growth and industrial development.

Hasunga gave the appeal here this week when opening Tanzania Society of Agricultural Extension and Education - TSAEE meeting from all councils countrywide.

The meeting's main aim was to deliberate on various challenges being faced and put in place strategies for farming and livestock sectors to increase productivity.

He said the aim of the government to build

industrial economy comes from existing opportunities through farming, livestock and fisheries sectors.

He said: "In this sustainable process, we have all agreed to establish industries that use domestic raw materials hence in order to make that a reality, farming, livestock and fisheries sectors have huge contribution for provision of the required raw materials."

Hasunga directed that every extension officer in the country must have a 'Farming Register' which he will use to put therein all important records every time he goes out to serve farmers.

Together with other essential details the register should show a list of all farmers he serves, size of their farms and types of crops

they grow.

Nonetheless, Hasunga said the government recognises the shortage of extension officers in the country compared to the number of wards that need to be served by the officials.

"Up to now we have 7,307, agricultural extension officers, 3,795 for livestock and only 419 for fisheries - it's obvious this number is small as compared to with 3,956 wards, 12,319 villages and 4,263 divisions that all need to be served with extension officers."

A representative from the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of State, President's Office (Regional administration and Local Government (TAMISEM) Dr Andrew Komba said the Ministry will continue to offer cooperation in the extension sector for TSAEE to operate independently.

Communities must realise tangible benefits from conservation, says PS

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

COMMUNITIES living around conserved areas must benefit from natural resources and it is upon authorities to ensure that these benefits are transferred to future generations through rational use of these resources. Such benefits must also reflect improved quality of lives by reducing poverty among families.

"We are tasked with the responsibility of stewardship of these resources on behalf of the future generations and it is our duty today to promote rational and sustainable use of the resources so that the benefits that we enjoy are transferred to our children and generations to come. The beneficiaries who are community members living around conserved areas hold the key not only to successful conservation but also to sustain these benefits," said Prof Adolph Mkenda, Permanent Secretary in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry.

Addressing participants in the Fourth Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Forum held in Arusha last week, the Permanent Secretary said that while human activities like agriculture, construction and livestock keeping usually don't rhyme with conservation efforts, it is important that stakeholders strike a balance between conservation and protection of natural resources on one hand and sustaining community livelihoods on the other.

He explained that in order to attain this balance, it is imperative to engage communities living around conserved areas through education and awareness raising campaigns in order to increase their understanding of conservation issues and build their sense of ownership of available natural resources.

"It is not enough for them to understand what conservation entails; they must realise tangible benefits or see high prospects of benefitting from their stewardship of those resources because they will be ready to conserve and protect what benefits them," said Prof Mkenda.

He highlighted the importance of changing the mindset of communities particularly when it comes to reducing the wildlife-human conflicts.

"People must shift from cultivating large parcels of land in order to produce a large amount of crops; instead they must turn to cultivating small areas of land in order to produce all the food they want. Likewise, livestock keepers must turn to keeping a few healthy animals that fetch a good

price in the market than keeping large herds that sell at very low prices," he said. "We must address the conservation-human development conflict and conservationists and communities must speak the same language," he challenged.

Speaking at the forum and with a focus on wildlife management a representative from UNDP, Emmanuel Sulle, countered the argument that communities lack education hence the continued poaching for game meat and government trophies. "They know everything that they are required to know about wildlife management and conservation of the environment in general. These people have been conserving the environment and managing wildlife since time immemorial, so there must be something else which makes them uncooperative," he said.

"Communities want recognition' they want to be valued. Why would a district's top brass, for example, rush to a site where a lion or an elephant has been killed by poachers but only one or two officials would visit a family whose member has been killed by a lion? Under the circumstances communities feel that wild animals get more recognition than them and therefore see no point in conserving and protecting natural resources," he said.

According to Sulle, community members are yet to get direct individual benefits that would motivate them to make significant contribution to conservation and protection of natural resources. Currently TANAPA and other conservation authorities spend about 25 percent of their revenue to improve social services in surrounding villages but it would appear that the communal benefits do not strike a chord among individuals that would make them increase their efforts to conserve the resources.

There is also the issue of community participation. Robert Mande from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism argued that the potential for community members to participate in conservation has not been fully exploited. "They must be consulted and given the opportunity to participate in fighting poaching. They want to be given space to air their views and opinions and these should be incorporated in formulating policies, rules and regulations," he said, adding that poaching cannot be stopped by use of more firearms or sending many people to prison but by working with communities living around conservation areas. "The success of zero-poaching campaign hinges on full participation of communities at the grassroots level," he noted.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

VSO CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

VSO is the world's leading independent international development organization that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries. Our high-impact approach involves bringing people together to share skills, build capabilities, promote international understanding and action, and change lives.

We will be running a tender with an intention of awarding Contract to Supply Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Vocational start up tool kits for Mwanza and Shinyanga Vocational graduates. We are seeking expressions of interest from reputable company who have successfully undertaken similar contracts.

Company wishing to express their interest should do so in writing to **Tender.Tanzania@vsoint.org** by January 6, 2020 at 10:00am and provide a contact name, organisation name, phone number and email address.

www.vsoint.org

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TradeMark (Trade and Markets) East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and United States of America. TMEA works closely with regional intergovernmental organisations, including the African Union (AU), East Africa Community (EAC), Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

TMEA would like to invite interested and qualified reputable consultancy firms/consortiums to participate in the following tender opportunities:

- PRQ20190691 Provision of Legal Services for Trademark East Africa's office in Ethiopia;
- PRQ20190686 Provision of Legal Services for Trademark East Africa's office in Kenya;
- PRQ20190587 Development of the Single Customs Territory Centralized Platform;
- PRQ20190618 Feasibility study for Religious Tourism Development in Rwanda; and
- PRQ20190629 Development of a National Business and Meeting, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions/Events (MICE) Tourism Strategy and Implementation Plan

The Terms of Reference and the Request for Proposals (RFP) documents for each procurement process can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the Tender Titles and Numbers should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submission of this tender is on or before **Wednesday, 05 February 2020 on or before 4.00 p.m. (Kenya Time)**.

Interested and qualified reputable consultancy firms/consortiums MUST submit their bids through TMEA's Procurement mail box using the email address, procurement@trademarkea.com. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed **5 MB**.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.

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Come up with plans leading to a boost in school exam results, RAS urges officials

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Emmanuel Kalobelo has ordered district educational officers to come up with plans on how to improve students' performance on Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLEs) in the region.

According to him, most of the districts in the region have been performing poorly in the examinations with exception of Gairo and Kilosa districts.

Kalobelo made the call recently here, saying that poor performance of some of the districts in the examination led to a slight increase of only 1.1 percent of a regional performance.

He wanted the district authorities including ward executive officers in Kilombero, Morogoro municipality, Ulanga, Mvomero, Malinyi and Kilombero to ensure that the performance of pupils in the standard seven examinations rises.

"Kilosa district in the 2018 national examination results held number 169 but in 2019 hold 91 position, that's a great job, Gairo was at 163 in 2018 and at 140 in 2019...so other districts should learn from these two councils to improve performance," he said.

He added that Kilosa increased performance in terms of grades whereby grade A-C performance was 83.32 percent contrary to Morogoro which had 53.82 percent and Mvomero 68.18 percent.

He warned the three districts

of Mvomero, Morogoro and Morogoro municipality for their poor performance in the 2019 results, a situation linked with lack of cooperation among educational stakeholders.

For her part, Regional Education Official (REO) Eng Joyce Baravuga, ordered educational officials across the region to find out solution to fight truancy and drop-outs in the region.

According to her, over 8000 pupils registered as standard one in 2013 didn't reach standard seven as they dropped out of school. "These pupils dropped out due to various factors including regular truancy, this is a very serious problem...The number shows each year at least 1000 pupils dropped out of school in the region," she added.

Baravuga also urged teachers to find an effective method of teaching English subject as records show poor performance as in 2018 the region scored 45.81 percent and dropped to 44.30 percent in 2019.

She recommended them to use e-learning because all teachers in the region were connected with e-library where they can share information and ask materials and teaching methods.

Christiana Hauli, Kilosa district's education officer urged leaders and stakeholders to work in team towards reaching the attended goals.

"These pupils dropped out due to various factors including regular truancy, this is a very serious problem...The number shows each year at least 1000 pupils dropped out of school in the region"



SBC Pepsi director Avinash Jha (L) takes Angellah Kairuki (3rd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments), around the firm's Dar es Salaam-based factory yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Nhundulu villagers turn officials' residence into a maternity ward

By Guardian Correspondent, Misungwi

RESIDENTS of Nhundulu village in Misungwi district, Mwanza region have turned the use a public servant building into maternity and children ward so as to stop deaths during delivery at homes.

Giving report on the implantation of National Plan in the fight against gender based violence (GBV) in Nhundulu ward, senior medical officer of Mwale Health centre, Consolatha Simba said the health centre receives and treats between 50 and 60 patients

per day and also caters for neighbouring villages of Ibinza, Isenengeja, Mhangu, Izizimba, Shinyanga Rural and Kwimba, which cause congestion of patients at the health centre.

He said the wananchi decided to change the use of public servants building to become a maternity ward.

The said the building earmarked for medical officer's residence was built at a cost of 51.7m/- and wananchi efforts was 13.38m/-, but it still needs further 38.3m/- excluding the cost of medical equipment. He said three to six women deliver babies every day, with many

missing resting rooms before and after delivery and sleep on the floor instead.

The Misungwi District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Peter sabato, on behalf of the DC thanked to Kivulini Organization, a Non Government Organization (NGO) that assisted in the fight against GBV and asked for this cooperation to continue.

On his part, the NGO's director Ali Yassin said the NGO has embarked to fight GBV so as to become a nation of peace, happiness and equality, hence cooperation was vital.

Closing the this year's 16 day

campaign on war against GBV the Deputy Head of Irish International Development Agency Adrian Fitzgerald said no woman should die during delivery hence he will support all efforts by the wananchi to complete the building project to save lives.

Some of the wananchi who spoke at the event, Magreth Maganga and Aleti Revocutus said the challenges they face were numerous especially the shortage of resting rooms, beds and officials' quarters, which is dangerous as of now the medical officials live far from the health centre.



International Commercial Bank Tanzania Ltd CEO Villy Vellayappan (L) has a word with Bank of Tanzania deputy governor Dr Bernard Kibesse at an event to mark ICB's 22nd anniversary held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is ICB board chairperson Josephine Severeatnam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

You are on right track, BoT tells ICB Bank

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has commended the International Commercial Bank (Tanzania) Limited for its endless support and issuing loans to customers as one way towards empowering them economically.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the bank's 22 years anniversary since opened its doors in Tanzania, BoT Deputy Governor Dr Bernard Kibesse said International Commercial Bank (ICB) has successfully met the demands of its customers.

"We (BoT) as the regulator and supervisor of all banks in Tanzania, we are pleased with the services

and products offered by ICB. It has managed to offer loans to its customers at utmost. As we are heading toward turning Tanzania into medium and industrial base economy by 2025, there is a need to increase banking services to both in rural and urban areas," said Dr Kibesse.

The deputy governor also used the avenue to appeal to all commercial banks to spread their weights to rural areas, saying that there was a need increase the customers base and faring well in the market.

Dr Kibesse said the banks have a significant role to play in facilitating the government's ambition of transforming the economy. He said

the banking sector was currently doing fine compared to previous two years.

"Today we are speaking a different story, BoT in collaboration with other banks we have reached 9.7 per cent in issuing loans as of November this year," Dr Kibesse explained.

Earlier, the Bank's board chairperson, Josephine Severeatnam said the board was satisfied with the conducive environment to invest in Tanzania and promised to increase and expand bank's services in the country. "ICB's shareholders are making additional investments in ICB Bank Tanzania as we have faith in this country and the banking sector," she asserted.

She also thanked Tanzanian government for involving stakeholders in the banking sector to discuss issues pertaining to the sector, saying was what inspired them to invest and do better in the banking industry.

"These 22 years of our services in Tanzania have had some of the challenges. We are now organised to invest dearly in technology so that we can reach out as many customers as possible," she said.

ICB is a foreign bank operating in Tanzania since 1997 and was proud of having five branches. It will soon open its sixth branch in Dodoma. It has branches in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Micro, small and medium businesses in EAC member states urged to aim for faster growth

By Guardian Reporter

MICRO, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the East African Community (EAC) have been advised to scale up their operations in order to grow quickly and become large enterprises that will be competitive at the regional and international levels.

Rwanda's Minister for Trade and Industry, Soraya Hakuziyaremye, said that the goal for each MSME in the region should be to graduate into a bigger enterprise rather than remaining an MSME forever.

Hakuziyaremye noted that MSMEs represent more than 90 per cent of businesses in East Africa, adding that growing MSMEs would therefore be the backbone of the regional economy.

Hakuziyaremye disclosed that the long term goal of the EAC was to increase the contribution of MSMEs to Partner States' GDPs from the current 20 per cent to 50 per cent. She urged EAC Partner States' governments to do all in their powers to address challenges faced by MSMEs to enable them create employment and reduce the high poverty levels.

The Minister said that key areas of capacity building for MSMEs would be in areas such as standards, cross border trade regulations, metrology, business licensing and registration, and the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade (NTBs).

On the growth of MSMEs in Rwanda, Hakuziyaremye said the government was committed to strengthening support services for MSMEs in addition to boosting their credit worthiness for purposes of attracting capital from local and international sources.

She said Rwanda had embarked on a 'Made in Rwanda Policy' purposely to showcase locally made products to national and international markets.

Hakuziyaremye was officially opening the 20th EAC MSMEs Trade Fair, previously known as the EAC Jua Kali/Nguvu Kazi Exhibition, at the Gikondo Expo Grounds in Kigali, Rwanda. The 20th EAC MSMEs Trade Fair has drawn more than 1,000 exhibitors from five EAC Partner States, namely Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Speaking at the event, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote, said that the annual trade fairs have over the two decades, brought together exhibitors from the East African region

for purposes of opening up new markets for their products while bridging the existing knowledge and technological gaps between them.

"The exhibitions have proved to be strategic avenues for promoting the Small and Micro Enterprises sector's products, transfer of technologies, and enhancing regional integration," said Eng. Mlote who represented EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko.

The DSG said that the EAC views MSMEs as engines to spur rapid economic growth as envisaged in the Treaty in addition to creating employment for EAC citizens.

"Managed well and with a supportive policy and regulatory environment, MSMEs can promote value addition to our natural and agricultural resources thereby increasing the region's share in continental and global trade," said Eng. Mlote.

"We must also not forget that most of today's multinationals were at one point in time small enterprises that grew into the giants they are now mainly due to a conducive business environment in their home countries," added the DSG.

In his remarks, Charles Waitthaka, the Chief Executive Officer of the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority in Kenya, revealed that 14.4 million per cent of Kenyans draw their livelihoods from directly from MSMEs which constitute 89 per cent of businesses in Kenya.

Waitthaka said that MSMEs also contribute approximately 33.3 per cent gross added value to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product.

Waitthaka urged the exhibitors to go beyond selling their wares at the trade fair and endeavour to establish links or networks to promote the free movement of locally manufactured goods in the region.

On his part, the EAC Director General for Customs and Trade, Kenneth Bagamuhunda, said the EAC was building digital platforms that would promote e-commerce in East Africa.

"We want to digitalize MSMEs in the region so that we can have a virtual exhibition that goes beyond the once a year trade fair," said Bagamuhunda.

Also present at the function were Kenyan Governors Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu County) and Alex Tolgos (Elgeyo-Marakwet County). Uasin Gishu County hosted the 19th EAC Jua Kali/Nguvu Kazi Exhibition at the Eldoret Sports Club, Eldoret in December 2018.

UNAIDS pumps \$6.5m into HIV/Aids response initiatives in Tanzania

By Correspondent Stella Mathias, Mwanza

THE Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids (Unaids) has pumped in US\$6.5million to the Tanzania's HIV/Aids response for the last five years, a senior official has said.

Speaking recently on the sideline of the HIV/Aids symposium here, ccountry director of Unaids in Tanzania Dr. Zekeng Leo said that the amount is for operational costs taking into accounts that the UN agency is not an implementing agency.

Commenting on the reason as why stigma is a major obstacle in ending HIV/Aids, Dr Leo said: "Despite many years of awareness raising around HIV, irrational fears, misconceptions about how HIV is transmitted and negative attitudes and judgements towards people living with or perceived to be living with HIV still persist.

"Stigma towards people living with or at risk of HIV leads to discrimination in many different parts of society such as healthcare, police, and public officials."

He said that stigma and discrimination prevents people from accessing health care services, including prevention services, such as condoms and Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), testing for HIV and enrolling in care.

For example, he said: "Studies have shown that people living with HIV who perceive high levels of stigma are 2.4 times more likely to delay enrolment in care, meaning that they are more likely to develop and die from AIDS and more likely to pass on HIV to their partner."

He said stigma fuels the HIV "as without addressing stigma and discrimination towards people living with or at risk of HIV in our societies, we will not reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of ending HIV/Aids by 2030, because the stigma causes discrimination and human rights violations that in turn prevents people from seeking and accessing the services and care they need to stay healthy and not pass on the virus."

Dr Leo explained how ending HIV/Aids in Tanzania is possible. "Ending the disease as a public health threat by 2030 as part of SDGs is within our reach. "Ending HIV/Aids means reaching a point where the number of new HIV infections becomes less than the number of HIV/Aids-related deaths (in 2018 in Tanzania there were an estimated 72,000 new HIV infections and 24,000 AIDS-related deaths; globally, these numbers were 1.7 million and 770,000 respectively)."

He however said that ending HIV/Aids requires strong investments and partnership across all sectors of society such as education, health, social services, the juridical system, the workplace and in the community.

Citing examples, the UNAIDS official said that the road to ending the scourge by 2030 goes through providing 30 million people living with HIV with treatment with Antiretroviral therapy (ART), up from the current 24.5 million.

It also goes through preventing new infections by ensuring access to combination prevention options such as PrEP and condoms, and eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV through guaranteeing that pregnant and breastfeeding women have access to comprehensive care.

He further said ensuring equal access to prevention and treatment stakeholders need to address cross-cutting and structural issues, for example eliminating gender inequality and end violence and discrimination against women and girls, addressing extreme poverty and ensure education for all.

Executive Director of the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Dr Leonard Maboko said at the symposium brought on board hundreds of youth from across the country and was meant to equip them with relevant skills and knowledge on how to address the disease.

Morogoro RC hails police for modelling scaling up of early crime prevention intervention

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner (RC) loata Sanare has commended police force for their tireless efforts for modeling the scaling up of early crime prevention in the region.

RC Sanare made the remarks when addressing more than 100 delegates from regional security organs, religious leaders, and police staff with their spouses at Feed force courtyard in Morogoro

During the event 37 police from different units were awarded for their outstanding performance in their day-to-day operations.

Some were being awarded for impounding 3000kgs of marijuana, curbing cyber-related crimes, seizing AK 47 guns, while others were awarded for their efforts in rescuing fuel tanker victims and their efforts to fighting corruption for the 2018/19 fiscal year.

Those police who were awarded came from different districts across the region whereby 33 were men and four were women.

"I commend the police force for the outstanding performance, which is a result of teamwork...I urge this spirits should continue for the development of the region and the country at large," the RC said.

He also extended his appreciation to the special committee led by Hamad Ali Islam and others who supported the Inspector General of Police(IGP) Simon Siro then launched fundraising for construction of five residential houses with the capacity of hosting 10 families worth over 200m/- whereby each apartment cost 50m/- located near the Central Police Station in Morogoro Municipality.

"IGP couldn't do this alone but through the support made by people of Morogoro, situation that impressed President John Magufuli who contributed 137m/- for construction of police apartments in Mvomero District. To me this is a success story as the move motivates police officers," he said.

Morogoro Police Commander, (RPC) Wilbroad Mutafungwa, launched special task force for curbing cases related to homosexuality whose records lead compared others which reduced daily.



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS/CONTRACTORS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

1. Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization providing Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS services country wide. Established in 1989 under Marie Stopes International (MSI), MST operates 11 health facilities and 57 outreaches teams providing family planning and others SRH services across the country.
2. Marie Stopes Tanzania intends to identify and pre-qualify reputable and eligible (including current suppliers /service providers and contractors) who will be competed themselves for the period of two (2) years. MST will identify preferred vendors. Pre-qualified vendors will be asked to bid for delivery of goods, provide services and carry out construction or renovation works on need basis in different regions where MST operates across the country, based on the instructions provided by MST. Interested and eligible suppliers / service providers/contractors from any part of Tanzania are invited to apply in this pre-qualification process.
3. Marie Stopes Tanzania invites applications from interested, competent and reliable suppliers /service providers/contractors to apply for one or more categories as listed in the table below. Interested suppliers / service providers and contractors can submit separate applications for one or more lots. Vendors who are currently working with MST are require to apply for this pre-qualification.

Lot No.	Category	Region to be supplied/provided			
1	Supply of IT Equipment and its accessories (Printers, Laptops, Desktops, servers, mouse, power surge protectors etc) and mobile equipment (mouse)	Dar es Salaam	17	Provision Vehicles hiring services (specifically 4WD vehicles, minibuses)	All regions
2	Provision of maintenance and Services of IT Equipment (laptops , desktops, UPS, Printers, scanner and heavy duty printers	Dar es Salaam	18	Provision of Event Management Services (includes tents-, chairs, tables, PA System, DJ& Music System, Music Stage and related Items)	All regions
3	Supply of Cylinders with CO2	Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, Zanzibar, Iringa, Mara, Zanzibar and Shinyanga)	19	Provision of Office Cleaning, Fumigation Services and supply of Hygiene/sanitary Supplies and Equipment	Dar es salaam
4	Maintenance and Servicing of three wheeler Motorcycles	Dar-Es-Salaam , Mwanza, Dodoma	20	Collection and incinerations of hospital wastes	Dar es salaam
5	Supply of General office stationeries (Cartridges, Toners, Box Files, Printing papers, etc.)	Dar es Salaam	21	Provision of safety and clean drinking water	Dar es Salaam
6	Designing, Printing and supply of Hospital and clients stationaries	Dar es Salaam	22	Provision of Horn Speakers/Megaphone	Dar es Salaam
7	Provision of accommodation (Hotel) and conference services	All Regions	23	Provision of work permit processing services	Dar es Salaam
8	Provision of Kitchen and general office supplies and sundries.	Dar es Salaam	24	Supply, fixing and servicing of Fire Extinguishers	All Regions
9	Provision of Legal services	Dar es Salaam	25	Supply of Air Conditioners, carry out maintenance and services	All Regions
10	Supply of medical supplies and Laboratory Equipment	Dar es Salaam	26	Supply Office Furniture and fittings (local made and imported including filling cabinets, chairs, tables, shelves, waiting benches etc.	Dar es Salaam
11	Service, repairs and maintenance of Medical and Laboratory Equipment	Dar es Salaam	27	Supply of Application Licenses (Antivirus, Research software's, Operating systems, SQL licenses)	Dar es Salaam
12	Printing, photocopying and binding various training materials/manuals	Dar es Salaam	28	Provision of Networking services , Networking equipment	Dar es Salaam
13	Design and production/printing of promotion materials (e.g. brochures, booklets, fliers, posters, envelopes, umbrella, gazebo, and other related materials	Dar es Salaam	29	Provision of courier and transportation services	All Regions
14	Construction/Rehabilitation/Renovations and minor repair of offices and clinics buildings (including plumbing, and electrical works	All Regions	30	Provision of Air Ticket Services	Dar es Salaam
15	Supply of Motor Vehicles (four wheel Vehicles and three wheel vehicles) Equipment and accessories (tubes, tyres, Batteries, Jerk and Carriers.	Dar es Salaam	31	Provision of Internet Services	All Regions
16	Supply Motor Vehicles (four wheel Vehicles and three wheel vehicles).	Dar es Salaam	32	Provision of General Insurance Services (Vehicle Insurance, ICT Equipment, Burglary, Business All Risks, Fire & Allied Perils)	All Regions
			33	Provision of advert services (newspaper advert)	Dar es Salaam
			34	Provision of security services	All Regions

4. Interested applicants may seek further information and clarifications regarding this pre-qualification by sending an e-mail to tenders@mst.or.tz before the due date and time for submission of pre-qualification document. MST will respond only to bidders who will show interest to participate.
5. Interested and eligible suppliers/service providers/contractors must confirm their intention to participate the pre-qualification process by indicating all relevant contact information including an e-mail address to tenders@mst.or.tz Attn: Procurement & Logistics Lead. Applicant shall be responsible for following up to ensure that MST has received the notification.
6. Within 48 hours after receiving applicant's intention to participate the pre-qualification document(s) in English language will be sent to interested applicants by e-mail. Applicants shall be responsible for confirming receipt of Pre-qualification documents within 24 hours after receipt. MST will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing, preparation or submission of the bid documents.
7. All applications in one (1) original plus three (3) copies properly filled in and enclosed in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked the "LOT Number and Description of the Lot All bid must be delivered either by hand, E-Mail, courier or sent by registered post so as to reach MST Office as per address provided below. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday 24th January 2020 at 16.00HRS local time. Email submission should be two hour before close of submission time through email address tenders@mst.or.tz
8. Late applications will not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of any circumstances.
9. Marie Stopes Tanzania reserves the right to reject any or all applications, to waive any defect or informality and assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the applicants for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bids and MST is not obliged to invite any bidders or quotations from any or all candidates that have expressed their interest by responding to this invitation.

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THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Closure of mines as much about environment as about innovation

TOP officials in the Ministry of Minerals have been reminding mining companies on the importance of working earnestly on legal provisions for their work. It is required that companies start working on their closure and departure plans, how to restore vegetation and ecological sanity upon ending mining activities. So far only ten relatively big mining companies have drawn up and submitted such plans, which means technically they are already in breach of the law.

Minerals minister Dotto Biteko explained the country has around 200 big mining companies, despite that the more well read people or those who follow the news could mention perhaps up to ten. Perhaps these are the major mining sites while the companies are more numerous, as the figure implies. Still only ten have submitted workable plan to close the mines, whereas the Mining Act of 2010 and amendments adopted in 2017 require mining firms to prepare such plans early. The plans accompany operations.

Simply, mining companies are required to prepare and submit to the Commissioner for Mines a technical document on how to close the mines from the first day they start mining and not after they are about to finish their mining activities.

This is what was explained in a two-day forum organized by the commission, especially as such a document would clearly state how much the company will spend in restoring the environment and how it will fill up the pits. This means that companies should be cognizant of steps to be taken against them in failing to act, preparing a fait accompli.

The minister was frank in asserting that nowhere in the world have mining activities ever been environment friendly if not strictly supervised. When the companies are about closing up, they are unlikely to negotiate proper closure plans unless that situation has already been programmed, and this is what the government is making an effort to see it is being done.

And when the number of firms is so big, and plans would not be existing already, the process of rectifying environmental anomalies at the last minute would be unworkable, and could not conceivably be negotiated on a friendly basis. That's why the legal provision of making it an early commitment is helpful.

Looking at the matter differently all the same, it is possible that the thinking about what to do with mining sites could be done 'outside the box' in the sense of widening the search for stakeholders beyond those immediately involved.

It is like selling a debt, that it is sold at a discount to whoever wishes to take it up, in which case the mining firm would have a debt to the government and the company sells the debt to another person. The purchaser of the debt would then move to fix the area by making it ecologically renewed and environmentally useful in a different manner, and there are various imaginable ways of doing that, including fish farming, etc.

Indeed, while mining companies are reading their closure plans, which in some cases could be as far off as 20 years, it is also positive to articulate another view. Not just land filling and planting trees, as plenty of flora and fauna lives and propagates not just in water but in deep land waters, etc.

International Human Solidarity Day should mean aiming for global unity

THE United Nations was founded on a basic premise of unity and ... poverty, proclaimed 20 of December as International Human Solidarity Day. The Sustainable Development Agenda is centred on people and planet, underpinned by human rights and supported by a global partnership determined to lift people out of poverty, hunger and disease. It will, thus, be built on a foundation of global cooperation and solidarity.

International Human Solidarity Day is a day to celebrate our unity in diversity; a day to remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements; a day to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity; a day to encourage debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication; a day of action to encourage new initiatives for poverty eradication.

Solidarity is identified in the Sustainable Declaration as one of the fundamental values of international relations in the 21st Century, wherein those, who either suffer or benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most. Consequently, in the context of globalisation and the challenge of growing inequality, strengthening of international solidarity is indispensable.

Therefore, the UN General Assembly, convinced that the promotion of the culture of solidarity and the spirit of sharing is important for combating poverty, proclaimed 20 of December as International Human Solidarity Day.

Through initiatives such as the establishment of the World Solidarity

Fund to eradicate poverty and the proclamation of International Human Solidarity Day, the concept of solidarity was promoted as crucial in the fight against poverty and in the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

The concept of solidarity has defined the work of the United Nations since the birth of the Organisation. The creation of the United Nations drew the peoples and nations of the world together to promote peace, human rights and social and economic development. The Organisation was founded on the basic premise of unity and harmony among its members, expressed in the concept of collective security that relies on the solidarity of its members to unite "to maintain international peace and security."

It is in the spirit of solidarity that the Organisation relies on "cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character" as well.

The General Assembly, on 22 December 2005, identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values that should underlie relations between peoples in the twenty-first century, and in that regard decided to proclaim 20 December of each year International Human Solidarity Day.

By resolution of the General Assembly, on 20 December 2002, established the World Solidarity Fund, which was set up in February 2003 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme. Its objective is to eradicate poverty and promote human and social development in developing countries, in particular among the poorest segments of their populations.

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Random acts of everyday violence

By Bonita Case and Phoebe Dordel

THIS year's 16 Days of Activism has ended. Are we going to fall silent about gender-based violence again? This is what happened to my 13-year-old daughter, Phoebe Dordel, in her own words.

Last week, I went on a school trip to Durban. I was selected to represent our school in the national beach handball tournament. We were a team of girls, a team of boys, a coach and an assistant coach. Everything about the trip was great, except for the assistant coach. He swore at some of us, for very little reason.

He offered to buy us beer - when we hadn't asked and didn't want any anyway. He stayed up late with us, always in one of the girls' rooms - there were three rooms that we shared. At one point, it was two in the morning and we all wanted to sleep - two of the girls had already fallen asleep - but he remained, wanting to stay up and talk to us. Eventually, I just kicked him out. He made up reasons to come into our rooms late at night. One night, he came into my friends' room around two thirty in the morning.

They had locked their door because of him. He knocked on the door until my friend, half-asleep, came and opened the door for him. He then went into the room, shone his phone's flashlight into the other girls' eyes and said he was looking for his hoodie. By this time, my friend, who is usually very nice, stopped being nice and kicked him out, telling him he could fetch his hoodie in the morning - if it was there. It wasn't in the end.

After he left, she locked the door behind him. He saw, and demanded, angrily, "Why the are you locking your door?" The door to our room didn't have a lock, which made us uneasy. One evening, some of us were in our room - boys and girls - and he joined us. One of us needed to take care of something private and we asked the boys to leave. They left, including the assistant coach, but after a minute, he forced open the door that we couldn't lock and tried to push himself into the room.

Two of my friends held him back. After my friend asked him what he wanted, he said he was looking for his phone. She gave him a phone that was lying there, assuming it was his, and he left. Shortly afterwards, he was pushing himself back into the room, saying it was the wrong phone. We gave him



another phone, the right one, and he left.

Afterwards, my mom wanted to know why I hadn't raised this with the coach or called home for help. I didn't think it was that bad. And I didn't want to make my mom worried - because she gets worried very easily. I heard my mom talk about my clothes on the radio - in Durban I understood the problem.

The girls' team uniform is a bikini top and shorts. After one of our matches, we went swimming and I wore a bikini bottom and my team top. Then we walked down the beach to get a pizza for lunch. At some point, one of the boys said I must walk in front of him. When I asked why, he said it was because there were some dodgy guys staring at my bum. My friend had a jacket in her bag and gave it to me so I could wrap it around me. One of the dodgy guys grabbed my friend by the elbow and said something to her, but she shrugged him away and we carried on. She said that guy offered her weed.

The whole thing made me feel nervous and uncertain. I know I should be able to wear what I want, but now I'm not so sure.

This year's 16 Days of Activism has ended. Are we going to fall silent about gender-based violence again? After all, there's the festive season to distract us. There's Eskom and up to Stage 6 load shedding to talk about. Remember the government's tweet shortly after the brutal rape and murder of Uyiniene Mrwetyana? "Violence and abuse

against women have no place in our society.

Govt is calling on women to speak out, and not allow themselves to become victims by keeping quiet. Women who speak out are able to act, effect change and help others." - South African Government (@GovernmentZA) September 2, 2019 We were outraged, but not really surprised by this attitude. While ours is a government that fought for liberation and freedom, it is also a government that protects and shelters those accused of crimes against women.

The most obvious example being our former president, Jacob Zuma, and the tragic story of Fezekile Ntsukele Kuzawayo - Khwezi - who accused him of rape. We are in George Orwell's Animal Farm: all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. We are equal to men in theory, but not in practice.

We know that women and children in our country are not safe. We are brutalised daily. From murder and rape to the more everyday crimes committed against us. (Though men rape and murder us every day too.) Despite the government's outrageous tweet, so many of us have in fact been shouting about it.

We gathered in our thousands outside Parliament and demanded that President Cyril Ramaphosa treat gender-based violence as a national emergency. Nothing that has been done about our dire situation has had an impact.

Until we eradicate the scourge of gender-based violence from our society, we must continue to shout. I kept silent on crimes committed against me until recently, when I outlined some of them here, in the Daily Maverick. Now that I've started to speak out, I can't shut up.

My words come from a place of rage, and from intense fear for my daughters. When I wrote about my child abuse and rape, I'd only highlighted experiences that stood out the most. What my 13-year-old daughter and her friends experienced are examples of the more everyday acts that give rise to this terrible culture.

And these are girls who are relatively protected, who have the luxury of parents ferrying them about, allowing them only into spaces they deem "safe". How much more dangerous is it for other children out there? Children who have to walk alone or take a taxi to school? Children whose parents can't afford childcare, so they have to look out for themselves after school? As South Africans, we know we can solve what may seem like intractable problems. We fought against and overthrew the apartheid regime.

This is the next fight for our human rights. The #MeToo movement changed things for women around the world. Let's do the same in South Africa. My 13-year-old daughter - though she hasn't been allowed on social media before - has set up #hearusroars on Facebook and Twitter. Please join, add your story and roar: Enough is enough! Because truly, it is.

Student of life: Life-long learning

Your bachelor's or masters doesn't mean a prospective employer should hire you. Neither does an MBA certification mean you know how to run a business nor does the name of the institution you went to speak a thing.

Your degree doesn't matter. At least not as much as you think it does. Can you practically show it? What can you bring on the table with a degree or masters certification? Well, that's what matters.

Mr. Ellison an HR Professional and veteran of the HR tech industry, degreed crystallized something I had always felt but wasn't able to put words to -he insists that a degree simply doesn't matter.

In as much as it's true your degree is an important record of your training on the fundamentals and learning how to think critically. It is important to step into lifelong learning as well because learning is a perpetual action not a means to an end. It simply doesn't matter as much as what you have learned since you graduated is tucked away in a drawer 50 KM away. You have to keep tabs and embark on a learning journey blend into new trends of the worlds' work place and the future of work.

What if your professional qualifications today might be replaced by a robot in the near future? Will your skills still be relevant?!

Your BA isn't as valuable as your recent learning in determining readiness or qualifications for a job.



Never the less, Your MBA doesn't make you a better manager than someone who has helped grow a business and stays current with reading on entrepreneurship and leadership.

Simply, your degree doesn't matter as much as you are a life-long learner, a student of life.

This HR personnel summed it up well at a recent career boot camp, "increasingly I hear this mantra: skills not degrees. It's not skills at the exclusion of degrees. It is just expanding our perspective to go beyond degrees. "Degreed is" jail breaking the degree." Degreed is offering a way to demon-

strate the learning that does matter but not the practical work that is needed to execute and implement what has been studied.

Having started her career in Human Resources and having built and scaled global Customer Success teams at several fast-growing companies, he has had the opportunity to interview thousands of people. One of his favorite questions as he says has always been, "Why did you go to college, what did you study and how did that lead to where you are today?" A three-part interview question? The questions might catch one off guard but they are questions that really do matter for the work place today.

This has nothing to do with the school, the level of degree or even the subject an individual has passed through or is currently pursuing.

Personally, It did matter to me a while ago until the professional world taught me a lesson on skills and not papers. It had never mattered to me that much in the past just like today.

Mr Ellison talks about how he finds it is interesting to look into the insights of an individual and how has leveraged that foundation to learn and grow through their careers not even with his company but those the individuals will work for in the future as well.

"Oh... I have a degree in



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Public Relations and because I didn't know what I wanted to do and I have always been interested in running my own business. But after graduating, I..." or "I have a degree in Procurement because I love store management but after graduating I found that I hate being stuck in Invoices all day so I..." such replies and analysis are just but a tip of the iceberg and Mr. Ellison explained it so candidly how such sincere discussions reveal true potentials of prospective employees as unique individuals who desire to make ends meet and live their dreams.

Pretty much, the honesty in many of the answers can lead to an interesting discussion. The way candidates connect higher education to their career and lifelong learning is a great indication of what they are bringing to the table. It is an interesting insight into the Why of their career. It is almost rare anymore to find someone who

went to college and received a degree in the same area as their current profession. Those that do business related studies you ought to celebrate! There is hope literally!

Even if your degree is perfectly aligned with the job you want, the hiring team wants to know what you have been doing since then and what you are willing to share and bring along for the benefit of their company.

The problem is several recruiters are still measuring skill acquisition with how attractive your GPA looks - - - by your college degree because that's the standard they have had to measure learning.

Well, I am a ware that he is not the only HR professional or hiring manager that knows the degree isn't an effective measure of skills and capabilities.

I doubt any effective hiring manager is making offers on a degree alone. But that is all most of us have known.

Or it was anyways.

Imagine if you could demonstrate everything you learned since you graduated. All of the relevant articles, papers, and books you have read that equip you to succeed in your job. Imagine a record of the conferences, webinars, and workshops you have attended that have helped you prepare for the job you want. If you could represent that to your organization, or future employers, wouldn't that be more valuable than saying you have an accounting degree from 5 years ago? Wouldn't you want that HR manager to understand what you have learned since then? That's meaningful and something that I wish human resource managers would want to hear from us more when carrying through the interview process.

So what do you plan to feed your brain with after you hand over that graduation gown?

Algeria to Hong Kong: Protests, crackdowns and concessions

BY SAMMIE WICKS, ANTHONY RIDDLE AND STELLAH KWASI

There is a wave of protests happening globally across the regime spectrum - from democratic to anocratic and autocratic societies. Although the issues vary from region to region, it is clear that citizens are demanding to be heard and they are using unorthodox ways to organise and protest.

In Algeria, considered an anocratic state, protests have persisted since February 2019. Spurred by widespread peaceful and unrelenting protests in Algiers, then president Abdelaziz Bouteflika was forced to resign immediately in April, followed by a purge of his elitist cronies. While the demonstrations have received sustained international media coverage, there's been a lack of significant commentary or support from European or North American governments.

In the 10th month of continued organised and popular demonstrations, the Algerian Hirak Movement continues to be mostly non-violent. The lack of violence is the result of several historical factors, regional events, and tactical decisions made by organisers and protesters. The legacy of the Algerian civil war, commonly referred to as the 'black decade' from December 1991 to February 2002, which recorded over 150 000 deaths, seems to have helped in the peaceful nature of the protests and the state's response. Algerians understand the cost of war and civil strife.

Although some argue that the political discord may create space for violent extremist groups, Algeria has



Citizens are using unorthodox ways to ensure their voices are being heard. File photo

not had significant attacks in the country. The legacy of the black decade has both fostered disillusionment with militant Islamists and aided in increasing the movement's resilience to armed groups operating in southern Algeria and the Sahel.

It has also helped in the development of an experienced and capable intelligence and security sector prepared to deny violent extremist intervention and co-optation. Furthermore, collective violence, especially from jihadists, would delegitimise the movement and its calls for government reform.

The lack of widespread

bloodshed and significant property destruction may be one of the reasons that Algerian protests are not getting the same level of English language international media coverage as protests in France, Iraq, Lebanon, Chile and Hong Kong. Limited coverage is also due to the lack of media freedom and foreign media presence in Algeria, leaving many Algerians to rely on social media.

Elections were scheduled, despite being delayed several times, and once again Algerians made it clear that they rejected the polls planned for 12 December 2019, which they largely see as an attempt to re-

generate the system.

The Algerian Hirak has been able to merge two contradictory components of revolutionary and social movements. It is an unorganised movement that seeks a complete overhaul of the Algerian system, but unlike many revolutionary movements, rejects violence.

The success of the Hirak movement for now is in part due to its lack of representatives. This tactic has ensured that everyone is involved, demands are clearly identified and no negotiations take place between the regime and any single representative, thus vesting power with the protesters. For now the Hirak

movement doesn't seem keen to field a representative in the elections but rather wants a reconfiguration of the Algerian state.

Civil unrest in Hong Kong - classified as a democratic state - started as peaceful protests following the Hong Kong government's introduction of a proposed extradition bill. The situation has escalated into what many Hong Kong citizens perceive to be an existential threat to their autonomy guaranteed under a mini-constitution known as the Basic Law until 2047. The bill magnified fears of mainland encroachment due to previous cases of people in Hong Kong being

abducted and extradited to mainland China by Chinese police often for political reasons.

As demonstrations continued to grow both in number and intensity, clashes with protesters escalated into the highest levels of violence Hong Kong has experienced in decades. Chief Executive of Hong Kong Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor then indefinitely delayed the proposed extradition law. Unfortunately public animosity had grown due to a perceived excessive use of force by police.

Although a leaderless movement as well, there

was no thorough planning and strategy like in Algeria. Unlike Algeria, Hong Kong doesn't have a recent memory of violence, but like Algeria it does have a contemporary historical moment of social demonstrations. Although the Hong Kong protesters have successfully forced the withdrawal of the extradition bill, and for a time appeared to be on track for Carrie Lam to step down, they have yet to realise their aspirations for real political autonomy.

Protests in Hong Kong don't seem to be dying out anytime soon with no sign of further concessions by Beijing or Carrie Lam despite successful elections.

The contrast in strategic organising is evident in the two countries. The history and memory of civil strife and regime types of these countries have perhaps shaped the response of protesters to security forces and vice versa. Nonetheless, response to widespread protests in Hong Kong shows that repression breeds violent reactions, creating a cycle of bloodshed in which no party benefits. Algeria may continue to avoid violence should the regime relinquish power and allow for substantive democracy in the country.

In the meantime, the strategy to remain leaderless has worked well to put pressure on the ruling elite in the two countries, epitomising what the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said: 'A leader is best when people barely know he exists.'

Sammie Wicks, Investigator, Aurora Police Department, Anthony Riddle, Intelligence Analyst, Amazon and Stellah Kwasi, Researcher, African Futures and Innovation Programme, ISS Pretoria

SYDNEY

The social utility of billionaires' existence has come under increased scrutiny, especially during the Democratic Party primaries for the 2020 US Presidential election. Leading newspapers, such as The New York Times, published opinion pieces arguing to abolish billionaires and reflecting on why billionaires engage in illegal insider trading.

The arguments for abolishing billionaires range from moral grounds to dubious, or outright illegal/criminal sources of their wealth. The billionaires own more than what is needed even for a most lavish life style, and far more than what might reasonably be claimed deserving. Billionaires are seen as manifestations of policy failures as they gain through, inheritance, abusing state-granted patent monopoly power, insider trading, lobbying, tax evasions and corrupting democratic and progressive policy making processes.

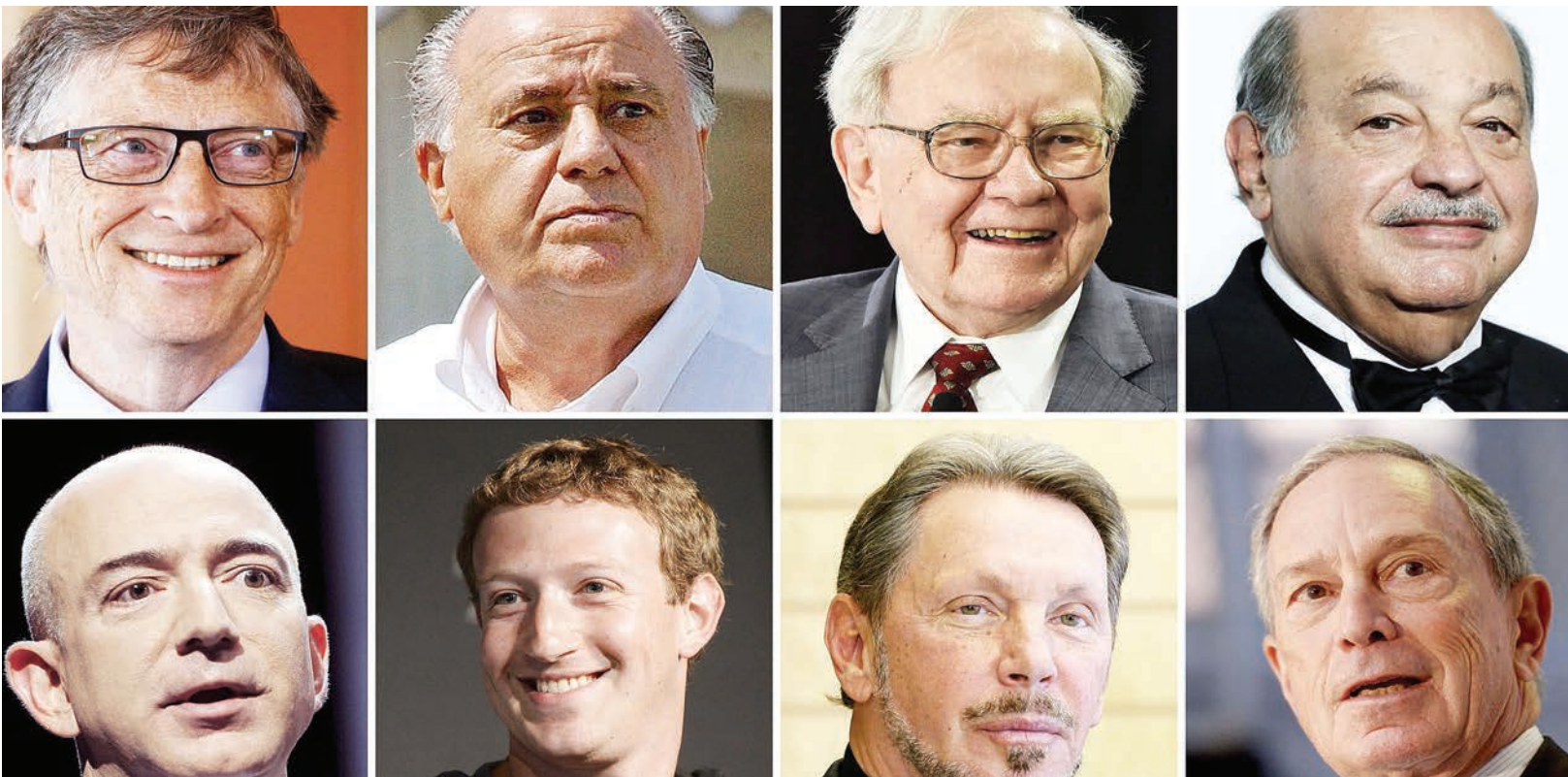
But could billionaires also pose existential threats to humanity?

Some prominent scientists and futurologists think so, based on the impacts of billionaires' carbon-intensive lifestyles and potential control of technological advances, such as genetic engineering (GE) and artificial intelligence (AI).

Money to burn

According to an Oxfam report, the richest 10% of people produce half of earth's climate-harming fossil-fuel emissions, while the poorest half contribute a mere 10%. The average carbon footprint of someone

Billionaires' existential threats to humanity?



in the world's richest 1% could be 175 times that of someone in the poorest 10%.

A recent CNN report tells that rich people do not just have bigger bank balances, they also have bigger carbon footprints as they own more stuff, and burn more fossil fuel globe-trotting in private jets, travelling in luxury cars and cooling/heating mansions. The jet-setting habits of celebrities produce an astonishing 10,000 times more carbon emissions from flying than an average person.

A study, published in Ecological Economics, shows that as the rich get richer, CO2 emission rises. Another study, published in Environment and Behavior, finds that rich people emit more carbon, even when they recycle and buy canvas tote bags full of organic veggies.

Furthermore, the political

clout and economic power of the wealthiest individuals prevent regulations on carbon emissions. What matters is not inequality as such, but income concentration at the top end of the distribution.

Soon there will be space tourism, a novel but greenhouse-gas intensive activity restricted to the super-rich for US\$250,000. The potential for luxury emissions is growing as the number of millionaires worldwide is projected to increase to 63 million in 2024.

Therefore, the prestigious science journal, Nature Climate Change, argued recently to shift the focus of emissions mitigating efforts from world's poorest people to people at the opposite end of the social ladder – the super-rich.

Hijacking Darwin

Jamie Metzl claims in Hacking Darwin, "From this point onward,

our mutation will not be random. It will be self-designed. From this point onward, our selection will not be natural. It will be self-directed." While society might overcome diseases by tweaking individual genomes, GE may also give rise to 'superhumans', "optimised for certain characteristics (like intelligence or looks) and exacerbate inequalities in society," Metzl thinks, new GEs are at once wondrous and terrifying.

In his posthumously published book, Brief Answers to the Big Questions, Stephen Hawking warned that genetically-enhanced elite could become a dominant overclass that could eventually wipe out the genetic have-nots of a future civilization.

No doubt, the ultra-rich will become the first superhumans. After all, who can afford the newest, ground-breaking

technology? The people who can afford everything else.

The appearance of superhumans is no longer a science fiction. The Fortune magazine recently predicted that designer babies are coming in 20 to 30 years, and "when baby genes are for sale, the rich will pay". In-vitro-fertilization pioneer Lord Winston has warned that a growing market for fertility treatments could "threaten our humanity", including if the rich were able to pay for so-called "designer babies".

Mark Thiessen in his The Washington Post opinion piece, wrote, "Only the wealthy would be able to afford made-to-order babies. This means the

privileged few would be able to eliminate imperfections and improve the talent, beauty, stature and IQ of their offspring – thus locking in their privilege for generations. Those at the bottom would not."

Thus, Marcy Darnovsky, executive director of the Center for Genetics and Society warned, "Genome editing for human embryos is an unnecessary threat to society." David King, a molecular biologist and founder of Human Genetics Alert, cautioned, "Hijacked by the free market, human gene editing will lead to greater social inequality by heading where the money is: designer babies... Once you start creating a society in which rich people's children get biological advantages over other children, basic notions of human equality go out the window. Instead, what you get is social inequality written into DNA."

Stephen Hawking's warning is ominous, "Once such superhumans appear, there are going to be significant political problems with the unimproved humans, who won't be able to compete. Presumably, they will die out, or become unimportant. Instead, there will be a race of self-designing beings who are improving themselves at an ever-increasing rate."

Jamie Metzl warns, the goal of improving the human population by GEs can get extremely dangerous. Horrible crimes against humanity were committed in the name of different considerations of "improvement". In

1925, Hitler wrote in Mein Kampf, "The stronger must dominate and not mate with the weaker". Claiming superiority of race, the colonialists wiped away the indigenous people of Americas and Australia.

End of human

The optimist AI expert and author of Humans Need Not Apply: A Guide to Wealth and Work in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, Jerry Kaplan admits, "The benefits of automation naturally accrue to those who can invest in the new systems, and that's the people with the money."

Robots will enable capital accumulation without labour. With robotic capital and equipped with an infinite supply of workerless wealth, the super-rich could seal themselves off in a gated paradise, leaving the unemployed sub-humans to rot.

Peter Frase speculates in Four Futures that the economically redundant hordes "outside the gates" will only be tolerated as long as they are needed. "What happens if the masses are dangerous but are no longer a working class, and hence of no value to the rulers?", he wonders. "Someone will eventually get the idea that it would be better to get rid of them."

In Guns, Germs and Steel, Jared Diamond described how gaps in power and technology, even without genetic superiority, determined the fates of human societies during the past 13,000 years. Now with 'designer genetic superiority' and weaponised AI - enabled by concentration of wealth and power - it would be a world defined by the "genocidal war of the rich against the poor".

IPS

COPENHAGEN

According to political scientist Zaki Laidi's La tyrannie de l'urgence (The tyranny of emergency) from 1999, crisis and emergency situations leave no time for analysis, prevention or forecasting. As an immediate protective reflex, they prevent long-term solutions and pose a serious risk of jeopardising the future.

In emergency situations, participants lack perspective, and durable solutions to human problems are treated according to the logic of immediate results and expectations of direct outcomes.

The effects of globalisation's deepening and fragmenting landscape highlights how governance with short-term efficiency has become normative when dealing with contemporary challenges.

The so-called European refugee crisis from late 2014 and, if we buy its premise, its aftermath have come to symbolise such an emergency situation.

Contemporary political responses expose the electorate and the parties, who respectively gain and lose in the processes of globalisation.

This socio-political cleavage has allowed centre-right parties to take advantage of nationalistic values, with migration viewed through the lens of security - limitation of migration flows and the fight against terrorist groups - law and order, while the centre-left have had to bridge the working class's fear of cheap labour and economic competition with the middle-class's liberal socio-cultural preferences. The European Union's

EU policies don't tackle root causes of migration, they risk aggravating them



reaction towards the crisis and its aftermath cannot be seen as a political crisis reaction per se, since the solutions it initiated to manage migration built on existing legislation and practices, helping to consolidate these as routinised emergency in order to naturalise migration politics.

There is a clear political red line between addressing so-called root causes and managing migration by securing external borders and preventing movement of third-country nationals.

This is anchored in the European Commission's comprehensive approach in the 1994 Communication to the Council, reconfirmed through the integrated approach at the 1999 European Council meeting in Tampere, and developed at the 2002 Seville meeting, where combating illegal migration and

addressing root causes were top of the agenda.

What we are witnessing is rather a political crisis, which has lasted for more than a quarter of a century.

How did we get here?

As a result of a sceptical post-1973 oil crisis scenario, addressing root causes of migration emerged in the 1980s, with the aim of improving socio-economic conditions in the countries of migrants' origin, to prevent unwanted migration towards Europe.

When the European Community was developing the single market, with the fluidity of the EU's internal national borders to facilitate free internal mobility as an outcome, the fear of losing control of external migration became an increasing concern for member states.

The EU's migration policies have, with their primary focus on securitisation, come to symbolise a harmful politicisation of humanitarianism, which seems to persist into the new Commission's 2019-2024 period and very like beyond.

In the following years, little progress was made towards a unified European migration policy. As a result, the Commission proposed the idea of a comprehensive approach to migration in 1994.

This consisted of a threefold focus: action on migration pressure through third-country cooperation, controlling immigration to make it manageable and optimisation of integration policies for legal migrants.

The root cause approach was to be seen as a long-term humanitarian development solution to the migration 'problem'.

The ideas of cooperation and addressing root causes have become the popular political take on the EU's migration challenges, which rhetorically attempt to circumvent the negative connotations of strict migration control and hostility.

During the last decades, the EU has been searching for a new strategic rationalist raison d'être for its common asylum policy, through harmonisation of the EU asylum legal acts, the Common European Asylum System and attempting to solve the stalemate between member states and intra-institutionally, regarding the Dublin system's tightening Gordian knot.

The EU has failed to solve the structural and systemic impasse in approaching migration flows, which will not end by continuing harshened border controls and security measures, earmarked development aid, externalisation processes or dubious bilateral agreements.

The EU's migration policies have, with their primary focus on securitisation, come to symbolise a harmful politicisation of humanitarianism, which seems to persist into the new Commission's 2019-2024 period and very like beyond.

Nothing new from Brussels?

Ursula von der Leyen's new Commission is taking office in a situation shaped by vast global challenges of geopolitical turbulence and internal fragmentation, towards which she has pro-

posed a rather pragmatic and strategic approach.

Through her manifesto and mission letters to the designated Commissioners, von der Leyen's new 'geopolitical Commission' will focus on making the EU an outward-looking politically influential global powerhouse, which must protect the Union from omnipresent geopolitical and external value-based challenges.

She has proposed 'a fresh start' on European migration policy, via a new pact on migration and asylum, a re-launch of the Dublin reform and a new way of burden sharing (the Achilles heel of the Dublin reform).

In charge of this agenda will be Commission Vice-President for Promoting the European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas (Greece), who will work closely with Ylva Johansson (Sweden), the Commissioner for Home Affairs, and Development Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen (Finland).

There are clear tensions and ambiguity in von der Leyen's agenda towards migration and development, which has toxically been coined with security politics, as it has to find a 'common ground on migration by working towards a genuine European security union'.

The external dimensions of migration management are explicitly present in the mission letters to both Schinas and Johansson. In these letters, they are instructed to cooperate with the new

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Josep Borrell, Spain), to develop a 'stronger cooperation with countries of origin and transit' in the case of Johansson and ensure 'the coherence of the external and internal dimensions of migration' for Schinas.

The EU's interaction with third countries and partnerships of border control are narrow and ultimately self-eroding.

Beyond the initial internal focus against the backdrop of the eurozone and financial crises, this aligns closely with the Juncker Commission's focus on the external dimensions of migration.

In 2015, the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa was founded to intensify cooperation with third countries. Migration is also, beyond the Trust Fund, a central element in EU foreign policy and it has further come to divide views in the debate regarding development policy.

It appears that the Union is proposing to work even more closely with partner countries to tackle human trafficking, secure borders, optimise effective returns and tackle root causes of migration through development initiatives. Schinas confirmed this at his hearing on 3 October 2019.

A reminder from the 'field' The collaboration with third countries regarding externalisation of borders is vastly problematic, since in some cases, as a trade-off through the funding of development aid earmarked for increased border control, it comes to support militias and authoritarian and hybrid governments.

Agencies

Rufiji lawmaker calls for action to end child marriage

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

RUFUJI lawmaker, Mohamed Mchengerwa has called for the need for national dialogue on what needs to be done to end child marriage in the country by incorporating leaders from the community who perceive the practice as a prestige.

The MP made the suggestion during the ending child marriage high level stakeholders' symposium that was organized by Save the Children held on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam.

He said the government itself cannot address the problem because not only the law, but norms and culture are what contributes to the increase of child marriage in the country.

Child marriage which is also known as early marriage continues to rob millions of girls under 18 around the world of their childhood.

Tanzania has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world, where by about 37 per cent of the women aged 20-24 were married before attaining the age of 18.

"This is a great problem, cannot be handled by single institution, there is a need to include all tribes and all religions, because there are some denominations in the religion which believe child

marriage is not a problem, while other believe according to what constitution says that the age of adult starts from 18 years," said Member of Parliament who is also the chairman for parliamentary committee constitutional and legal affairs.

"There are conflicting views between what some religion believes that a matured girl can get married and those who believe by basing on the age of a matured person from 18 years, therefore there is a need for having one common understanding if we want to get rid of this," he explained.

He added that the government or the parliament cannot decide alone, because there is a lot of fear from religious leaders that when the student stay at home for long he or she might be in a risks of engaging in sexual behavior.

"More research is needed in child marriage in order to have a collective decision that will not affect or favor any side in a community to avoid misunderstanding," he insisted.

Country director for Save the Children Peter Walsh said the symposium is mainly to discuss what is wanted by the government, by the religious leaders and the community to help fight the problem of child marriage.

"We also discuss how we can do to make the coming year 2020 be the year were child marriage will be addressed at large percent," he explained.

Walsh said the initiative is supposed to include society from the very grass root level where the incidence originates in order to identify which area needs much attention.

"This is why we welcomed a number of stakeholders from across different organizations, institutions and society to identify the existing gap and how we can overcome it to win the battle," he detailed.

For his part chairperson for community council and Islamic institutions Sheikh Mussa Kundecha said there is a need to review the ban to teen mothers from proceeds with their studies, because education is the right of every individual.

"If we want to protect girl child from all violence we need to empower them with education which will give light on how to protect themselves from the risks of getting marriage and pregnancy at low age, and not to deny them education," he said.

"If you deny a girl the right to education, you force her into a life of poor prospects, with an increased risk of violence, abuse, ill health or early death," he elaborated.



T-Pesa head Lulu Mkudde (R) exchange business agreement documents with her Halopesa counterpart, Magesa Wandwi, shortly after a signing ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Vodacom Tanzania and WorldRemit launch mobile money transfers to M-Pesa accounts

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

DIGITAL money transfer company WorldRemit has partnered with mobile telecommunications firm Vodacom Tanzania to enable nine million users of the M-Pesa mobile money service to receive money directly to their e-wallets from friends and family living abroad.

Using the WorldRemit app, Tanzanians living abroad in over 50 countries can send money home and the new service increases convenience for recipients in Tanzania who can receive international money transfers directly to their phones, without the need for a bank account or internet connection.

"This new partnership with WorldRemit enables us to tap

into their global payments network and help customers receive remittances into Tanzania from more countries around the world," Vodacom Tanzania M-Pesa director Epimack Mbeteni said.

"This is just one more way we are making our customers' lives easier."

WorldRemit country manager for Tanzania Cynthia Ponera said the partnership

would drive down the cost of sending money to Tanzania and enable recipients in some of the most remote locations to receive money from abroad in seconds.

"Our money transfer service to Tanzania is growing by over 100 percent year-over-year and mobile money is the most popular way for our customers to send money to the country," she said.

"We are delighted to partner with Vodacom to further expand our network and connect over nine million M-Pesa customers to our award-winning money transfer service."

According to the World Bank, migrants from sub-Saharan Africa sent \$46 billion back home in 2018, a growth of 10 percent from the previous year.

Farmers benefiting from new practices on cassava cultivation in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

HUNDREDS of farmers in Zanzibar have started benefiting from new skills and knowledge on cassava and sweet potato cultivation, weed management, agronomy and the use of improved seeds.

Deputy Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, (in-charge of agriculture) Mansura Mossi Kassim said yesterday when officiating the annual general meeting of cassava and potatoes researchers.

The official described cassava as the second food crop after rice in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Citing some of the data, the deputy principal said that Zanzibar produces 65 tons of cassava and 55 tonnes per year.

"This shows that there are many farmers who are engaging in food crop production such as cassava and potatoes. Some of the crops are sold overseas, Kassim said, adding that the increase in crop production has been

contributed by the uptake of new farming techniques. In the past, he said that farmers weren't equipped with better technology designed to scale up crop production, the situation that ended many of them to get few crops.

"As they ministry we're encouraging farmers into modern agronomic practices to boost production per piece of land," he said, encouraging many farmers to apply farm inputs when growing different crops.

One of the meeting participants, Mombeki Wiston expressed his hope that the effective use of better agronomic practices will take Zanzibar farmers to the next level in terms of development. He however said that the African cassava agronomy initiative, which is being executed in twelve countries, has also contributed to the current achievements.

Coordinator of the project from International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Dr Bernard Vanlauwe, cited lack of farm inputs as one of the challenges thwarting development of the sector.



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth and Persons with Disabilities), has a word with members of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) management during an inspection tour of NSSF houses in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Hamidu

Govt allocates 1.5bn/- to complete hospital projects in Mbeya region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE Government has set aside 1.5bn/- for completion of the construction of three district hospitals in Mbeya region to start serving people in January next year.

The hospitals include Mbarali and Busokelo districts all of which had earlier received 1.5bn/- each to begin work.

This was revealed at the weekend by the Minister of state in the President Office (Regional Administration and Local Government (TAMISEMI) Selem Jaffo during his inspection visit at Mbarali district hospital.

Jaffo said the government is satisfied with the work on all the three projects including how the money has been spent, hence President John Magufuli decided to release more funds for completion of the works.

He said the construction of the hospitals is part in the implementation of

the 2015 Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Election Manifesto.

The Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila who accompanied Minister Jaffo promised that funds for the will be wisely spent and all the projects will be completed in time.

He said apart from the hospitals there are also 14 health centres, some of which have hospital status, that have also been constructed with government funds and that he will ensure the funds thereon are spent wisely.

He said the wananchi are also engaged in building dispensaries in their villages and the government will continue to mobilize them to build up to roof level after which the government will step in to finish work.

Mbarali Council Chairman Francis Mtega than ked President Magufuli in implementing what he promised during his visit in the district over completion of the work on the hospital.

9,883 elders earmarked for free treatment in Chunya District

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

A TOTAL of 9,883 elders have been identified in Chunya district in Mbeya region some

of who have already been given ID cards for them to get free medical services at hospitals and health centres.

This was revealed by Chunya District Community Development Officer Theresia

Mwendapole when she spoke with this paper on the implementation of various development projects.

She said out of these elders, 100 were given IDs and have started using them for medical

treatment from health centres and various government hospitals for free.

She also stressed that there should be a separate windows at all government hospitals and health centres to cater for

the elders.

She said elders are an important group in the society as many of them had contributed immensely in the country's development before they became old.

By Richard Calland

Why British election result matters beyond Britain

First of all, what happens in Britain - in politics, as in culture - still has disproportionate influence globally because of the disproportionate "soft" power of the English language.

Second, relatedly, the UK is still one of the world's biggest economies, a G10 country and a permanent member of the United Nations' Security Council.

Third, it's a member of the European Union (EU), humanity's greatest experiment in multilateral collaboration, but it is, of course, in the (protracted) process of leaving the 27-country economic and political club following a plebiscite referendum in 2016.

That Brexit decision has thrown British politics, and some of its democratic institutions, into paroxysms of disarray and disharmony. The divisions between "remain" and "leave" have cut across many if not all of the traditional dimensions of the political demography - certainly class, the urban-rural and North-South divides; and, more than anything, the inter-generational dimension.

It rendered the general election on 12 December the most uncertain as well as the most important for at least a generation.

Especially for progressive people - and this is the fourth reason why the British election mattered - for whom the Labour Party's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, was either a long-awaited socialist Messiah or an "extremist" walking disaster who was bound to fail, depending on where precisely the individ-

ual sits on the left-of-centre ideological spectrum, it was a seminal moment.

The results were a crushing blow to Labour - even worse than the 1983, 1992 and 2015 defeats. Labour lost 42 seats from the last election in 2017. Many of those seats were in traditional working-class areas in the North of England and the Midlands that Labour has simply never lost before or which the Tories have not held for almost a century.

This is truly shocking. In these constituencies, many people voted Conservative for the first time in their lives, even though it would appear to defy reason to think that a Tory leader - especially one as mendacious, entitled, elitist and unprincipled as Johnson - could be trusted.

As one of my UCT LLM students asked me recently, "why would a working-class person in the UK think for even a second that the Conservative party could be relied upon to serve his or her interests?"

It is a compelling question. And the corollary question is the one that the progressive left, in Britain and elsewhere around the world where ultra-populist and often extreme right-wing parties are surging upwards, must confront: Why is it that once again working-class voters have turned away from a left-leaning political party to vote for a right-wing one?

Displaying precisely the intellectual arrogance and ill-judgement that were the



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. File photo

central features of his time as leader, Corbyn is in complete denial. On 15 December 2019, he wrote an article arguing that Labour had "won the argument", referencing the fact that 10-million voters had voted Labour, but failing to mention that this is 2.5-million fewer than two years ago.

And, far more importantly, winning the argument - even if that is remotely true, and I don't believe it is - is pointless if you fail to win the seats, unless your attitude to politics and power is focused not on the "bourgeois" notion of victory, but on the purity of your ideological stance.

Herein lies the core problem of Corbyn and his Corbynistas. In essence, they are a toxic combination of ideological self-indulgence and Trotskyite entryism. They care less about winning power for the Labour party than winning power in the Labour party.

I have personal experience of this. When I was active in the

south-east London Labour party in the 1980s and early 1990s (before coming to South Africa in 1994), those of us who would identify as being "traditional" Labour party members and, in so far as an ideological brand could be attached, as social democrats or democratic socialists, fought a tough fight to rid the party of "hard" left operators who wanted to use the Labour party as the vehicle for their own political fetishism.

I thought we had won. So, Corbyn's victory in the leadership contest after the 2015 election - in which the outcome defied the opinion polls that had predicted that a Labour party led by Ed Miliband would likely be the main player in a coalition government - was shocking, not least because it soon became clear that he remained stuck in a 1970s' student union worldview.

Because of this, and because he is simply not cut out for modern political leadership, Corbyn failed to persuade voters or offer

a clear alternative. In turn, the bewildering complexity of his programme for "real change" was shredded by the populist simplicity of Johnson's simple "Get Brexit Done" slogan.

Many on the left will seek to dismiss my perspective as a "Blairite" one - much the same, by the way, as some will seek to discredit the legacy of "Mbekiite" politics. But after almost 10 years of Zuma and Tory-led rule by austerity in Britain, I am not remotely ashamed to say that I miss both leaders, even though their records in power are rightly condemned for their inexcusable failures on Iraq and HIV-AIDS, respectively.

While Tony Blair was able to articulate a vision for Britain that was credible and persuasive, his Chancellor of the Exchequer (minister of finance), Gordon Brown, asserted "social democracy by stealth" - rebuilding public services and infrastructure; promoting a fairer, more decent society; nurturing the economy during tumultuous geopolitical times (9/11 and then the 2008 financial crisis).

No-one who knows Britain at all can surely or reasonably claim that the years of Blair/Brown government between 1997-2010 were not better and more just and decent than what preceded or followed it.

It may not have been the stuff of "revolution" that fuels the fantasies of the Corbynistas. But, ironically, it was far more in touch with a far larger and more diverse cross-section of the British people. Blair and Brown understood their country better. They understood that it is a (small c) conservative society, no more so than in working-class communities - where Queen and country matters as much as the desire for

decent, fairly paid work. The next leader of the Labour party needs to understand this in a way that Corbyn and his London acolytes failed to.

She or he needs to be able to connect with British "working class" voters, but also bridge the divides that have been excruciatingly opened up by Brexit. I put "working class" in parenthesis because the economic and social character of the "working class" is not what it was, re-shaped by the Thatcher-driven structural shift away from manufacturing industry towards other sectors, different skills and trade, and self-employment.

It will take leadership with the dexterity of a Blair and the staunch resolution of a Brown - both giants in their own way - not the vacillation of Corbyn who, unfortunately, was unable to offer a clear view of his own on the most important issue for a generation or more, Brexit. Voters clearly realised that Corbyn was more inclined towards leave than remain, but was too weak to say so or to try and lead the debate in either direction.

Understanding the progressive benefits that accrue from EU membership, especially as a shield against Tory anti-poor rule - again I speak from experience of representing welfare beneficiaries during the cruel final years of Conservative rule under John Major in the late 1980s - proved to be beyond Corbyn.

I will spare you the detail of the numbers, but as a

result of this fundamental failure of leadership, he succeeded in upsetting both remainers who voted Labour in 2017 and working-class leave voters in the North and Midlands.

Labour lost voters because of Corbyn's leadership, the confusion over its Brexit position, and the lack of clarity and strategic focus of its manifesto programme, which although it contained significant and laudable ideas and commitments, came across as a hastily assembled potpourri of public investment, some of it in areas of the economy that did not align with the electoral strategic imperative.

Bizarrely, in addition, Corbyn's leadership group managed to convey weakness to the electorate while exerting an unbending autocratic style internally. Those within the movement who failed to drink the cool-aid supplied by Momentum, the hard left grouping that has been the driving force of the entryist manoeuvre, were told to "f**k off to the Tories".

And so, apparently, many did just that.

There are some societies around the world in which revolutionary leftist politics may, and have in the past, gained traction and succeeded. Britain is not one such place. This is not about sacrificing principle or policy, or abandoning the search for structural change to economic wealth and power, but about recognising the socio-political and historical constraints and nuances, and adjusting strategy and tactics accordingly.

And it is about having the right leader to articulate the vision and engage the electorate. **DM**

The good, the bad and the promising of Africa 2019

BY SIMON ALLISON

Just as it is impossible to describe 'Africa' in a single word, or to visit Africa in a single trip - Africa is not a country, as foreigners so often have to be reminded - it is difficult to sum up a whole year in the life of this continent without resorting to sweeping generalisations.

But it is possible to pick out a few highlights - or lowlights. These are the events that will, when in decades to come historians look back at the year 2019, stand out as seminal moments in the

development of politics and economics in Africa.

Perhaps the most seminal of all was epochal, unexpected revolution in Sudan. There had been murmurings of discontent throughout President Omar al-Bashir's long rule, which began in 1989. There had been plenty of protests and opposition movements and even war crime charges against him at the International Criminal Court, coupled with crippling sanctions. And yet Bashir, somehow, had always stood firm, his canny blend of divide-and-rule coupled with brutal authoritarianism

proving too strong for all opponents.

That all changed this year. What began as demonstrations against a hike in the petrol price morphed into an astonishingly united and persistent mass revolt against Bashir's regime, one that ultimately toppled him. But the protesters didn't stop there. Learning from the example of neighbouring Egypt, whose own Arab Spring revolution proved to be all too short-lived, Sudanese protesters kept up the pressure to ensure that the interim government was not hijacked by those same gen-

erals who had kept Bashir in power for so long.

A commendation, too, for the African Union, whose unusually strong statements in support of civilian rule, as well as its mediation efforts, had a profound influence on the nature of the transition, which resulted ultimately in the appointment as prime minister of Abdalla Hamdok, a civilian technocrat with extensive United Nations experience.

It must be noted that the revolution in Sudan is far from secured. It is also far from alone. Across the continent - and the world



African nations are showing signs that the only route to continental peace and prosperity is through working together. File photo

suffered its largest ever drop in support in the midst of a sustained drought?); and health (will warmer environments increase the risk of malaria?).

There is some hope, however. In the decades to come, if historians are writing about the African Continental Free Trade Area it will mean that the deal has lived up to its enormous expectations. Ratified in May this year, with 54 out of 55 African countries signed up, it promises to create one of the world's largest and most diverse free trade areas, revolutionising intra-continental trade in the process.

The deal, while promising, is still a long way from being fully implemented - few business leaders are expecting it to be operational any time in the next decade. It is still notable, however, that it got signed at all, and is perhaps indicative of an acceptance among African nations that the only route to continental peace and prosperity is through working together.

It also shows that Africa is prepared to buck the global trend, in which multilateral institutions are coming under unprecedented pressure (often from the very nations that were the original architects of the multilateral system).

When was the last time so many African leaders agreed so wholeheartedly on an issue of this nature? If that spirit can be harnessed to tackle existential threats like cross-border insecurity, migration and climate change, then the continent may just stand a chance of withstanding them. And if that proves to be 2019's lasting legacy, then this year really will be one worth commemorating in the history books.

Simon Allison, ISS Consultant

- civil unrest is gathering pace. In Algeria for example, where Abdelaziz Bouteflika was also forced out of power; or in Malawi, where weeks of unprecedented anti-government demonstrations followed the disputed election that returned Peter Mutharika to power.

Or in Zimbabwe, where the government is so scared of the power of protest action that it has implemented a brutal crackdown on activists, opposition members and union leaders - the people with the ability to organise such actions.

2019 was also the year when the climate emergency made its impact felt unmistakably in Africa. The twin cyclones to strike the coast of Mozambique - Cyclone Idai in March and Cyclone Kenneth

in April - together left more than 1300 people dead, and caused chaos and devastation in both Malawi and Zambia as well as Mozambique.

In Mozambique, the impact of Cyclone Kenneth in Cabo Delgado was exacerbated by the ongoing insurgency in the region, which has killed dozens of people and raised fears of further conflict.

What was revealed by these events is the near-total unpreparedness of Southern Africa to deal with extreme weather on this scale. Almost all the financial aid to cope with the disasters came from abroad, and the affected areas have struggled to get back on their feet.

Global temperatures are likely to rise even further, according to the latest United Nations Emissions Gap

Report, which says that the world is on track to warm by 3.2°C by 2100 at the current pace of carbon emissions. This means that Southern Africa - and the continent as a whole - can expect extreme weather events like cyclones Idai and Kenneth to happen with greater frequency and intensity.

We are only beginning to understand what this might mean for mass migration (South Africa's repeated bouts of xenophobic anti-migrant violence are a worrying sign); power generation (drought has left the Kariba Dam at record-low levels, compromising hydroelectric power generation for Zimbabwe and Zambia, leading to widespread power cuts); politics (is it a coincidence that Namibia's ruling party

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT **THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD** 021

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

WORD FIT

CROSSWORD

5 Letter word: BAY, BEE, ADE, NEE, LEO, TON, ELL
 4 Letter word: TRIP, BRAE, AIDE, NUUK, REEL, STEP, ACME
 5 Letter word: RHYME, N-TYPE, INNER, SKULL, LIEGE
 6 Letter word: MTWARA, MORMON, ENCINA, TENETS OFFICE, NEUTER, ASSIST, EPOPEE, TALENT
 8 Letter word: ETRUSCAN
 9 Letter word: WAY OF LIFE

Clues: Across
 1. Highest peak in Uganda (10)
 6. Woman servant (4)
 8. Meeting house (8,4)
 12. Make noise like cow (3)
 13. Son of Abraham and Sarah (5)
 14. Male roe deer (8)
 16. Change (5)
 17. Training and Enterprise council (3)
 19. Former Portuguese west Africa (6)
 20. Ridged (7) 23. First sign of ZODIAC (5)
 24. Large striped feline (5)
 27. Metal casting (5)
 29. Bird of pigeon family (4)
 30. Legal claims on somebody's property (5)
 31. good-humored teasing (8)

Down:
 1. "Rocky city" (6)
 2. Vacation place (6)
 3. Pounding tool (6)
 4. Accumulate (5)
 5. Distance in miles (6)
 7. Swahili word meaning tool (3)
 9. Bounce (3) 10. Volume (8)
 11. Keep sailboat upright (4,3)
 15. Hormone (8)
 17. Codeword for letter "T" (4)
 18. Coastal county in Ireland (5)
 19. Consumed (3) 20. Loop (4)
 21. Wise person (4) 22. Small Islands (4)
 25. Statue (4) 26. Always (4)
 28. Metal writing tip of pen (3)

Comments: 0/29 4/19/19



Thursday 19 December 2019

Women have a 100-year wait to get to gender parity, study shows

DAVOS

Women will have to wait almost a century for the same economic, political, health and educational opportunities as men, taking more than a lifetime to achieve equality, according to the World Economic Forum.

In terms of the "economic opportunity gap" it will take women 257 years to achieve parity with the other gender, even worse than the 202 years predicted for the economic sub-category in 2018, according to WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2020. This is largely because of too few women in leadership roles, wage stagnation and low labour force participation, the report adds.

"To get to [economic opportunity] parity in the next decade instead of the next two centuries, we will need to mobilise resources, focus leadership attention and commit to targets across the public and private sectors," said Saadia Zahidi, head of the Centre for the New Economy and Society at WEF.

"Business-as-usual will not close the gender gap - we must take action to achieve the virtuous cycle that parity creates in economies and societies." The forum has pledged to at least double the current percentage of women participants at its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, by 2030.

WEF's report, which began in 2006, studied 153 countries, tracking their progress across on gender equality across the four main themes of economic participation and opportunity, education attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

Iceland ranked as the world's most gender-equal country for the 11th consecutive time followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and Nicaragua rounding out the top five globally. Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Pakistan, Iraq and Yemen ranked the lowest.

The top five most-improved countries in the overall index this year are Ethiopia, Spain, Mali, Albania and Mexico, with a "substantial" increase in women's presence in political institutions, the WEF report said.

Countries which showed the most improvement in women's economic participation and opportunity are Cape Verde, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Indonesia. The overall gender gap in the Middle East and North Africa can be closed in 140 years, the report said. The UAE ranked second in the Mena and 120 globally in terms of gender equality, according to the report. No country to date has yet achieved full gender parity.

"At the present rate of change, it will take nearly a century to achieve [overall] parity, a timeline we simply cannot accept in today's globalised world, especially among younger generations who hold increasingly progressive views of gender equality," Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of WEF, said.

The 99.5-year period estimated in this year's report is actually an improvement from the 108-year estimate last year, largely due to the participation of women in politics. WEF does offer some hope for more accelerated progress through what it calls the "role model effect." In many countries, high political empowerment corresponds with high numbers of women in senior roles.

There are some signs of that effect, as Kuwait appointed Mariam Al Aqeel as its finance minister yesterday, making her the first woman to hold that position in the Arabian Gulf. Traditionally male-dominated industries are also realising the importance of achieving gender equality to progress. The International Air Transport Association said that 59 airlines have committed to the '25 by 2025' campaign, which seeks to address the problem of gender imbalance in the aviation industry.

The initiative will see airlines commit to increasing the number of women in senior positions in airlines by either 25 per cent against currently reported metrics or to a minimum representation of 25 per cent by 2025. Middle East airlines including Etihad Airways and Gulf Air have signed up to the global programme.

PwC survey says majority of consumers preferring banks with physical branches

By The Banker Reporter

THE majority of consumers in East Africa region still favour dealing with a commercial bank which has a physical branch presence in their reach, a PwC East Africa Banking Survey for 2019 said.

The survey's report which was released recently said, although many have predicted the fall of the traditional bank, as disruptive new entrants win market share by offering a better customer experience through new products and channels.

"And yet 65 percent of consumers believe that it is still important to have a local bank branch, according to PwC's 2018 Digital Banking Consumer Survey2, and 25% would not open an account with a bank that did not have at least one local branch," the report stated.

The report further noted that among other things backing traditional banking preference is because consumers still value the ability to ask for help and be guided through the process - in person. "At the same time, traditional banks' business is at risk from FinTech disruption. FinTechs are targeting services like payments, funds transfer and personal finance," the PwC report added.

The report added that against this backdrop of the FinTech threat, Africa's banking industry is



Tanzania Bankers Association chairman, Abdulmajid Nsekela participated in the PwC East Africa Banking Survey 2019.

also undergoing transformational change. Three trends impact the African banking industry and profitability: Relatively high rates of economic growth; Financial sector deepening to fulfil a huge unmet need for financial services; and The emergence of digital solutions with lower-cost models.

"According to PwC's Global Retail Banking 2020 survey1, fewer than 20 percent of banking executives feel well-prepared for the future; 55 percent of them

view non-traditional players as a threat to traditional banks; and 70 percent of global banking executives believe it is very important to form a view of the banking market in 2020," the report said.

The PwC East Africa Banking Survey which includes insights from chief executive officers, chief financial officers and other senior representatives of the banking industry in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania, further stated that lending rates

range between 18 and 21 percent in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda, much higher than in Kenya.

"High interest rates in these countries have provided banks with the ability to price for underlying risks, although to some extent this has been coupled with inadequate risk assessments leading to increased exposure to non-performing loans," the report added.

In Tanzania for example, the regulator issued a circular in February 2018 which introduced

measures aimed at reducing non-performing loans and increasing credit to the private sector. Among others, was a requirement to write off loans which stayed under loss category for four consecutive quarters, the PwC report noted.

"This resulted in huge write offs for banks which had a number of these non-performing loans but were fully covered by collateral. The requirement to write off does not take into account strength of collateral," the report pointed out.

While this regulation introduces an accounting challenge when considered against IFRS 9 impairment requirements, that challenge pales in comparison to the practical business implications for banks seeking to remediate such accounts.

"It remains to be seen whether the regulation, which has been challenged by various practitioners, will remain. Importantly, regional regulators watch the Tanzania developments closely as they also grapple with NPL ratio challenges," the report stressed.

Powerful forces are transforming the retail banking industry. Growth remains elusive, costs are proving hard to contain and return on equity remains stubbornly low. Regulation is impacting business models and economics. Technology is rapidly morphing from an expensive challenge into a potent enabler of both customer experience and effective operations, the PwC report observed.

Minister Bashungwa foreseeing 69bn/- Kurasini Logistics Centre as commercialising agriculture

By The Banker Reporter

THE proposed US\$30 million (about 69bn/-) Kurasini Trade and Logistics Centre to be constructed by Export Processing Zones Authority next year will completely transform the agriculture sector in the country.

Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa said in Dar es Salaam this week the ambitious project commercialise agriculture as commodities will be traded through Tanzania Mercantile Exchange hence boosting farmers' earnings.

Describing it as one of the largest trade hub for agro-products in East Africa region, Bashungwa said the project's actual cost will be established by February 2020 a team of EPZA experts complete a thorough analysis and assessment.

"Presence of the massive trade and logistics hub is a big leap in transforming the agriculture sector to significantly contribute to the farmers' income but also our gross domestic product," said the minister.

He further noted that Kurasini Trade and Logistics Centre will provide an important platform for local commodities to access both regional and global markets.



Industry and Trade minister, Innocent Bashungwa.

TMX is Tanzania's first professional commodity exchange platform where buyers and sellers will meet trade transparently with respect to prevailing global market forces for farm produce with assured high quality and enough quantity backed by better payment.

One of the commodities to be traded during

the first days is tea which will have its collection centre, warehousing and processing facilities hence local traders will no longer use Mombasa auction as their only outlet.

Statistics show that agriculture employs about 70 percent of the country's workforce and contributes around 26 percent to GDP.

Briefing the minister, EPZA Director General, Col (rtd) Joseph Simbakalia said his team will immediately start implementing the board's directive by meeting all stakeholders in the agriculture sector particularly those dealing with horticulture products.

"We will start meeting all stakeholders in agriculture sector from today (Wednesday) to get their views and requirements in implementing the trade and logistic hub," Simbakalia noted.

He said the government has already paid 101bn/- compensations to Kurasini residents to give way to the project on the 61.87 acres land. He said EPZA will prepare concept note on the project, design the buildings as well as putting in place road, water and electricity infrastructures.

The authority plans to construct one stop service centre that will bring together various regulators namely Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Tanzania Revenue Authority, Tanzania Ports Authority, Atomic Energy Agency, Agriculture ministry and Tanzania Shipping Agency Corporation.

Furthermore, EPZA in collaboration with other stakeholders is set to construct warehouses of international standards and agro processing industries for goods exports.

Global recession odds fall as economy to stabilise in 2020

NEW YORK

The odds of the global economy heading towards a recession next year are lower as growth is expected to stabilise in 2020 after weakening in 2019, according to predictions by IHS Markit.

The global economy is set to stabilise at a rate of 2.5 per cent in 2020 before improving to 2.7 per cent in 2021, according to the annual Top-10 Economic Predictions released by the London-based information provider. The probability of a global recession now stands at one in five despite high levels of policy uncertainty.

"While the global economy seems to have dodged a recession, risks remain daunting," said Nariman Behravesh, IHS Markit chief economist. "In the near term, the biggest threat is either an escalation of the US-China trade conflict or the spark of trade conflicts in other regions, notably Europe. Premature repeal of fiscal stimuli is another potential risk to the stabilisation we forecast."

Global economic growth slowed in 2019, sparking fears of an outright recession, with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund painting a gloomy outlook and revising down their own growth pro-

jections of the world economy. The slowdown has been synchronised globally as the US-China tariff war and increased policy uncertainty hit business confidence and consumer spending.

However, the US and China have cooled their trade war. Earlier this month Washington and Beijing agreed on the terms of a so-called "phase one" trade deal that will see the US reducing some tariffs on Chinese imports in exchange for China increasing its purchases of American agricultural, manufactured and energy products.

The easing of the trade conflict between the world's two biggest

economies is grounds for optimism for improved global economic growth next year. "A return to global growth is most likely in the second half of 2020," Mr Behravesh said. "We are watching trade and industrial production in Europe and China for the green shoots of accelerating growth." The US economy is expected to expand 2.1 per cent in 2020, down from the stimulus-driven average of 2.5 per cent recorded in the years from 2017 to 2019, the report said. Growth will be supported by factors including the 'phase one' trade deal with China and solid consumer spending.

However, the US presidential

elections could cloud the outlook for US economic growth, IHS Markit warned. "The run-up to next year's presidential election could provide some policy surprises, both positive and negative, which could affect the outlook," the report said. In China, the economy will continue its downward trend, slowing to growth of 6 per cent in 2020 and dropping further in 2021. "The decade-long deceleration is a result of an aging population and a sharp drop-off in productivity growth, meaning that potential growth in China is lower now than a decade ago and is set to fall further," it said.

Tourism PS urges NMB, Tato to work in partnership to spur growth

By The Banker Reporter

AS the government targets to increase foreign tourist arrivals from the current 1.3 million to two million by end next year, partnership between commercial banks and tour operators will play a key role.

Permanent secretary at Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Professor Adolf Mkenda said in Arusha last week during a tourism stakeholders dinner session organised by Tanzania Association of Tour Operators and sponsored by NMB Bank Plc that the Dar es Salaam based lender is an important partner in ensuring that the industry grows rapidly.

Prof Mkenda said so far, the government appreciates the role which NMB has played in the development of the country's highest foreign currency earning industry. "I know that NMB is ready to continue working with travel and tourism stakeholders in propelling growth of this important industry

hence urge you to work together," the Tourism and Natural Resources highest civil servant noted.

He pledged the government's continued support of the industry which earns Treasury on average over US\$2bn per annum. "I commend NMB management for supporting government efforts and your recent plea that you will go where the state focuses on," he added noting that the Southern Circuit remains less exploited by tourism stakeholders.

Earlier, Tato chairperson Willy Chamburo said they will continue working with the bank to develop the tourism industry and especially the Southern Circuit which is less exploited.

"We have been working with NMB for many years in empowering tour guides to do their job professionally and contribute to rapid growth of the industry," Chamburo said while stressing that growth of the tourism industry spills over to economic growth.

NMB's Chief Retail Banker, Filbert

Mponzi pledged to continue working with the government and tour operators to ensure that development and growth are speeded to contribute to rapid gross domestic product.

Mponzi said the bank has already started issuing tour operators car loans through 'Tour Operators Vehicle Finance' with an objective of easing their work burden but also improving services in the industry which contributes a lot to economic growth.

"The loans are aimed at assisting tour operators provide services and earn cash at ease but also contribute to national growth," Mponzi said adding that the NMB also works in partnership with Hanspaul RSA which manufactures special tourism vehicles given as loans to the private sector.

Other products which NMB offers the tourism industry include, Asset financing, internet banking while allowing Tanzania National Parks Authority and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority collect revenue digitally.



NMB's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi, addresses tour operators at a dinner in Arusha city last week. Photo courtesy of NMB.

KBA fights bid to access bank statements on interest charges

NAIROBI

The Kenya Bankers Association has opposed an application by close to 200 account holders seeking to be supplied with bank statements as they pursue compensation arising from illegal interest charges decades ago.

The case, which has been dragging on in court since 2003, seeks compensation for interest rates that were charged on loans without the Finance minister's approval as required by the law. More than 40 banks through the KBA have opposed the suit and even argued all the way to the Supreme Court, against the case.

The case was initially filed by Rose Florence Wanjiru but she later argued for any account holder and borrowers to join the matter. The account holders claim that they suffered while repaying their loans, after changes were introduced on interest rates, in contravention of the law.

Ms Wanjiru is seeking a refund of Sh38,960 from Standard Chartered Bank, which she said was illegally levied, arguing that the bank did not obtain approval from the minister of Finance to levy



Kenya Bankers Association chairman Joshua Oigara.

the charges as required by law.

The latest application by the banks opposed the demand by the account holders to access their bank statements before the main case is heard. The litigants, among them lawyer Jennifer Shamalla argued that it was their right to access the statements and the right to fair hearing.

Alternatively, the banks said the account holders should pay to get the statements but the court heard that some of them run into hundreds of pages, a move that would be costly to them. Justice Francis Tuiyot will rule on the application and give his direction on the matter on February 27.

The High Court initially dismissed the matter but the Court of Appeal later revived it in a ruling that found that the judge erred when he threw out the case. Banks later opposed the application by Ms Wanjiru to allow other litigants who suffered similar fate but it was dismissed, forcing the case to head to the appellate court and later to the Supreme Court.

The KBA argued in the application before the Court of Appeal that the High Court judge had erred in failing to strike out the case, on the basis that JK Wanyela, who was being sued on behalf of KBA as a representative of 43 commercial banks, without complying with court rules and procedures.

HSBC's plans to make itself more profitable means further shake-up of top managers

HONG KONG

HSBC has begun to reshape top management, laying the groundwork for a new direction under its next boss.

The bank is expected to announce the retirement within days of Marc Moses, chief risk officer and board member, said people familiar with the matter. The qualified accountant is likely to be replaced by Pam Kaur, head of wholesale market and credit risk.

Meanwhile, the London-based lender has decided to split leadership of its investment bank. Gregory Guyett and Georges Elhedery will jointly run the unit once Samir Assaf steps down in the coming months, said people with knowledge of the matter. Guyett is currently head of global banking, while Elhedery runs HSBC's global markets business.

The departure of Moses would mark the most senior exit from the business since the removal in August of former chief executive John Flint. He was pushed out by chairman Mark Tucker, who said the bank needed a change of leadership to cope with an increasingly complex business environment. Moses's departure has been in the works since before Flint's, and Kaur has been preparing to replace him for several months, one of the people said.

Flint's replacement, interim chief executive Noel Quinn, is reviewing the entire business. Quinn has made a bid to get the top job on a permanent basis and is considered one of the front-runners for the post. Speaking in an internal video in October, he told staff that he was more than a "caretaker" chief executive.

"My mandate is to run the business not just as an interim CEO, but as the CEO of the bank," he said. A fresh strategy could see HSBC focus more of its resources on Asia, where it reckons it can make a better return on its shareholders' capital. Tucker told employees at an internal meeting in recent months that more than 30 per cent of the bank's capital was generating returns of less than 1 per cent, according to a briefing note previously reported by Bloomberg.

Quinn's review is the third undertaken by HSBC in the last decade and the pressure is on the bank to deliver after its stock hit a 12-month low this week. The bank's operations in the US and continental Europe are expected to bear the brunt of the cuts.

The lender has already signalled its intention to offload its French retail unit, which could take as many as 8,000 employees off its payroll. Equities sales and trading in France, Germany, the US and the UK are also likely to be scaled back, people familiar with the situation have said.



HSBC interim chief executive Noel Quinn.

Saudi Arabia's largest lender abandons potential merger

RIYADH

National Commercial Bank (NCB), the biggest lender in Saudi Arabia by assets, ended talks for a merger with its smaller rival Riyadh Bank, terminating a potential deal, which promised to create a banking giant with \$200 billion in combined assets.

The boards of the two lenders agreed to stop merger talks, the banks said in separate statements on Monday to the kingdom's Tadawul Stock Exchange without specifying the reason for terminating the talks.

NCB said it is committed to become the region's leading financial services group by "implementing its sustainable growth strategy", while Riyadh Bank said it will continue to develop its products, services and technologies that "serve

the interests of its customers, shareholders and employees."

The halting of talks comes almost a year after both lenders announced their intentions and initiating exploratory talks in December 2018. Both banks had said they sought consultations from the kingdom's financial regulator, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, prior to merger discussions and both entities did not expect "forced dismissal" of employees if the merger went through.

The Public Investment Fund, Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund that holds stakes in some of the biggest lenders, owns 44 per cent of NCB and about 22 per cent of Riyadh Bank. NCB shares declined 2.4 per cent since the beginning of 2019, while those of Riyadh Bank have surged 23 per cent. That compares with a gain of 4 per cent for Saudi Ara-

bia's benchmark stock index, according to Bloomberg.

The deal would have out-shone the combination of Saudi British Bank (Sabb) and Alawwal bank in June that created a financial entity with more than \$73bn in assets. The two lenders formally merged to become the third-biggest lender by assets in the kingdom.

NCB and the Riyadh Bank deal was seen as the continuation of the consolidation trend in the Gulf banking industry. Bank mergers in the Gulf have picked up pace in recent years as lenders combine their balance sheets to gain scale in a bid to better face tougher market conditions against a weakening global economic backdrop.

The Sabb and Alawwal deal followed Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank's tie-up with Union National Bank and subse-

quent takeover of Al Hilal bank as its Sharia-compliant arm in the UAE. Last month Dubai Islamic Bank, the biggest Sharia-compliant lender in the UAE, secured regulatory approval to buy Noor Bank. This follows the merger of National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank to create First Abu Dhabi Bank, a banking powerhouse in the UAE.

Elsewhere in the region, the boards of Kuwait Finance House and Ahli United Bank in September agreed on a share swap ratio, a crucial step in the former's bid to take over its smaller Bahraini counterpart and create a combined Islamic banking entity with more than \$96.7bn in assets. The Bahraini entity, at the time said, its board approved a final exchange ratio between the two lenders of one KFH share for every 2.325581 AUB shares.

SA portfolio inflows jump on record Eurobond sale

JOHANNESBURG

South African portfolio investment inflows rose to the highest level in more than a year in the third quarter after the country's biggest Eurobond sale yet.

Investment inflows increased to R40.2bn, the South African Reserve Bank said in its

quarterly bulletin released Friday in the capital, Pretoria. That's highest since the first quarter of 2018, when sentiment surged after Cyril Ramaphosa won the leadership of the ANC and took over as president of the country.

Key Insights

South Africa is heavily reliant on foreign investment inflows

to help fund the deficits on its current account and budget. The current-account gap hasn't dipped below 2% of GDP since the end of 2016 and, together with a budget shortfall that's projected to be the widest in more than a decade next year, it keeps pressure on the rand.

The government sold \$5 billion in its biggest Eurobond

sale to date in September and that "more than offset" net sales of domestic debt securities and equities by foreign investors, the central bank said.

Foreign direct investment of R17bn came into the country in the third quarter, compared with R26.3bn in the three months to June. The economy entered the 73rd month of a

weakening cycle in December, extending its longest downward phase since 1945.

Household debt declined to 72.6% of GDP in the third quarter, compared with 72.7% in the previous three months. Nominal unit labor costs rose 5.7% in second quarter, compared with a revised 3.8% in the first quarter.

MARKETTRENDS

WORLD

On impeachment eve, Trump lashes out at Pelosi, Democrats

WASHINGTON

ON the eve of his expected impeachment in the US House of Representatives, President Donald Trump accused Democrats of pursuing an "illegal, partisan attempted coup" and declaring war on American democracy as they seek to remove him from office for pressing Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden.

Trump's remarks came in a signed letter addressed to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, released as House lawmakers set the rules for debate ahead of Wednesday's planned vote on two articles of impeachment - formal charges - against the Republican president.

At the same time, the Senate's top Republican, Mitch McConnell, signaled he would not allow the expected upcoming Senate trial on impeachment charges to involve more factfinding about Trump's conduct. The Republican-led Senate is unlikely to vote to convict the president.

The rambling, six-page letter from Trump to Pelosi on White House letterhead largely restated the president's objections to the impeachment probe, but did so in accusatory and sometimes spiteful language that attacked Pelosi, congressional Demo-

crats, Biden and institutions such as the FBI.

Pelosi, Trump wrote, "is turning the House of Representatives from a revered legislative body into a Star Chamber of partisan persecution" while "scarcely concealing your hatred of me."

The impeachment probe, the president said, was an "illegal, partisan attempted coup that will, based on recent sentiment, badly fail at the voting booth," alluding to the November 2020 US presidential election in which he is seeking another four years in office.

The US Constitution gives the House the power to impeach a president for "high crimes and misdemeanors," part of the document's checks and balances among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government.

The Democratic-led House is expected to pass two articles of impeachment charging Trump with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for his dealings with Ukraine.

"By proceeding with your invalid impeachment, you are violating your oaths of office, you are breaking your allegiance to the Constitution, and you are declaring open war on American Democracy," Trump wrote.



An anti-President Trump crowd gather at a rally to protest and call for his impeachment on Tuesday, in New York. (AP)

"You view democracy as your enemy!" he wrote.

Asked about Trump's letter, Pelosi told CNN: "I haven't fully read it. We've been working. I've seen the essence of it though. It's really sick."

Senate clash over witnesses

On the eve of the vote, Pelosi sent a letter to all 232 Democratic members of the House, urging them to defend the Constitution.

"Very sadly, the facts have made clear that the President abused his power for his own personal, political benefit and that he obstructed Congress as he demanded that he is above accountability, above the Constitution and above the American people," she said.

House Democrats accuse Trump of abusing his power by asking Ukraine to investigate Biden, a former US vice president and a leading Democratic contender to oppose him in the 2020 election. Trump is also accused of obstructing the congressional investigation into the matter.

Members of the House Rules Committee set a six-hour limit for debate before the vote on Wednesday by the full House, which is expected to result in Trump becoming the third US president to be impeached.

No president has ever been removed from office via the impeachment process set out in the

Constitution.

Earlier, McConnell brushed aside a Democratic request to call four current or former White House officials as witnesses in the Senate impeachment trial expected next month, again making clear that he expects senators not to remove Trump from office.

In dueling speeches on the Senate floor, McConnell said he would not allow a "fishing expedition" after a "slapdash" House impeachment process, while Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said a trial without witnesses would be a "sham" and suggested Trump's fellow Republicans favored a cover-up.

McConnell said on the floor it was the Senate's role simply to act as a "judge and jury," but he later told reporters that he would not be "an impartial juror."

"This is a political process. There is not anything judicial about it," he said. "Impeachment is a political decision."

Schumer said he was "utterly amazed" by McConnell's remark. He had said he wants the trial to consider documents and hear testimony from four witnesses: former national security adviser John Bolton, acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, Mulvaney aide Robert Blair and budget official Michael Duffey. **Agencies**

President Xi proud of Macao's achievements, progress

MACAO

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said the central government and the Chinese people are proud of the achievements and progress of Macao in the past 20 years.

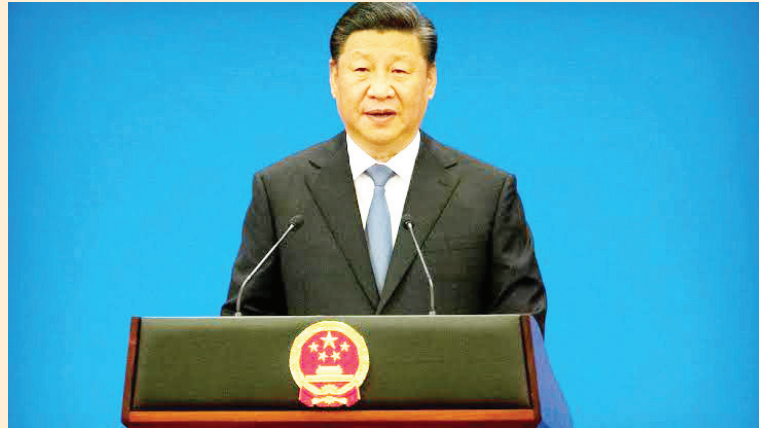
Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks after arriving in Macao on Wednesday afternoon.

"I am very happy to come to Ma-

cao again. In October, we held a grand celebration for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The 20th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland is another major event," Xi said while speaking to reporters at Macao's airport.

Xi also extended warm congratulations and best wishes to the Macao compatriots.

"It is worthwhile to sum up the experience and characteristics of Macao in faithfully implementing 'one



country, two systems," he said while addressing media at Macao's airport.

"We will join hands to draw the blueprint for Macao's future development," Xi said.

The president is expected to attend a gathering celebrating the 20th anniversary of Macao's return and the inauguration ceremony of the fifth-term government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR). He will also inspect the Macao SAR. **Xinhua**

Seoul and Washington fail to agree on cost of US troops

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States failed yesterday to reach an agreement over Seoul's contribution towards hosting some 28,500 US troops, ending two days of talks that were the last before their existing deal expires on Dec 31.

ROK's lawmakers have said Washington is seeking up to US\$5 billion a year, more than five times the amount Seoul agreed to pay this year.

As part of his 'America First' policy, US President Donald Trump has demanded that many US allies, including NATO

members and Japan, pay more towards defense.

He has frequently accused ROK of being a rich nation that is profiting off the US military forces, which are stationed in the country as a legacy of the 1950-1953 Korean War and continued threats from Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The lack of a deal in talks led by ROK's chief negotiator Jeong Eun-bo and his US counterpart, James DeHart, could result in a repeat of last year when the two countries missed a year-end deadline but reached a retroactive agreement in the new year.



Some experts, both US and Korean, have warned that if no agreement is reached, it could throw the entire future of the US presence in ROK into doubt. The next set of talks will be in the United States in January, with the exact timing still to be determined.

ROK's Foreign Ministry said their negotiators emphasized the need for "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable agreements," that will strengthen the alliance.

"The two sides have expanded their understanding of each other through many discussions despite differences in their positions on various issues, and decided to continue close consultations," it

said in a statement.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Seoul declined to comment.

The dispute has been a rare public sign of discord in the "airtight" alliance that has for 70 years formed a buffer against DPRK aggression.

There have been several public protests in ROK against the US calls for more money.

ROK overwhelmingly oppose paying more, a survey released on Monday by the Chicago Council of Global Affairs found, with only 4% of respondents saying Seoul should meet Trump's demands. **Agencies**

So-called rules-based international order preached by US officials totally nonsense

US officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Ford, have been vowing to establish "rules-based international order" in recent days while they keep slandering China.

It is known to all that the core of international order is the modern international law system based on the Charter of the United Nations. Since the end of the World War II, the system, jointly established by the international society, has been serving as a basis to safeguard global peace and stability, and promote common development of all countries. It deserves to be cherished and protected.

However, what has the U.S. done to this system that it had once actively promoted?

As early as 2001, the U.S. had withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, reversing the process of U.S.-Soviet Union/Russia bilateral nuclear disarmament. It placed severe nega-

tive impacts on global peace and stability.

In recent years, Washington has been leaning to unilateralism, quitting and withdrawing from more and more treaties and organizations.

The U.S. unilaterally quit the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that it once promoted to reach and was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231. In addition to denying the treaty itself, the U.S. obstructed the implementation by other signatories via unilateral sanction and its long-arm jurisdiction.

The U.S. and Russia, as the world's largest nuclear arsenals, are specifically responsible for nuclear disarmament, and they should further reduce the number of their nuclear weapons based on the implementation of the existing Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (SART), so as to encourage other countries to follow.

However, disregarding the whole

world, Washington just tore apart the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty reached between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1987, recovering the research and tests of land-based intermediate-range missiles and declaring to deploy such weapons in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

Reluctant to extend the SART, the U.S. proposed the so-called China-U.S.-Russia trilateral arms control negotiations, trying to duck responsibilities and pass the buck to China.

Facing increasing nuclear risks, China is actively calling on the five nuclear-weapon states to reiterate the important idea - "nuclear wars can never be won and must never be fought" which was jointly raised by former General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev and former US President Ronald Reagan. However, as the country who put forward the idea, the U.S. now refuses to reiterate it.

As a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the U.S. should have actively promoted the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction based on the consensus reached on the 1995 review conference of the treaty. However, the U.S. has always been negative in this regard, and even refused to join the related international conference summoned by the United Nations not long ago.

On the Palestine-Israel situation, the U.S. once supported the "two-state solution" on the basis of the 1967 borders to be the only correct scheme to solve the issues between the two countries. The "two-state solution" was also confirmed by the resolution of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly. However, Washington just had a u-turn and the U.S. administration just went back on its word.

Besides, the White House also announced to drop out of the Arms Trade Treaty during this year's United Nations General Assembly. It declared the U.S. would never approve the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and said it was planning on the withdrawal from the Treaty on Open Skies that it has implemented for years with Russia.

International security treaties and organizations are not the only sector that the U.S. is abandoning. Washington has also quit other major international mechanisms such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Paris Agreement. Such practices have long been despised by the international community.

In addition, the U.S. blockade of the new judges appointed by the Appellate Body of the WTO over the years even paralyzed the organization.

As a matter of fact, the U.S. is not only undermining the existing international consensus, but also doing everything to stop new international rules and systems from being established.

For instance, it voted 21 against and 6 abstentions out of the 60 resolutions in this year's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) of the United Nations General Assembly, totally standing at the opposite of the international society.

When it comes to the uses of outer space, which is closely related to the welfare of all human beings as well as global peace and security, the U.S. has long neglected the appeal of the international society, and rejected to initiate the negotiation of international treaties on the prevention of arms race in outer space. It also prevented relevant UN panels' approval of work reports.

People's Daily

India's top court issues notice to federal govt over citizenship law

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S top court yesterday issued a notice to country's federal government over the controversial new citizenship law that triggered massive countrywide protests, officials said.

Around 60 petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the validity of the citizenship law. The petitioners were demanding a stay on the new law passed by Indian parliament last week.

"We want a stay order in the CAA case," said Kapil Sibal, a lawyer for petitioners who challenged the law in court, adding it was in conflict with parts of the Indian constitution guaranteeing equality to all, Reuters reports.

A three-judge bench of Supreme Court today in a brief hearing declined to stay implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), saying they will have to see whether the Act has to be stayed," an official said. "The court has set Jan 22, 2020, as the next date of hearing in this matter."

Massive protests are going on across several India states and inside universities against the new citizenship law.

A number of opposition parties, activists and members of civil society have urged the Supreme Court to put a stay on the new law.

"The petitioners claim the new citizenship law violates the basic structure of the constitution and that religion can not become the basis for determining citizenship," a senior lawyer said.

The law aims at granting citizenship to illegal immigrants belonging to six religions - Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, Parsi and Christianity - from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, it has kept out Muslim immigrants from applying for citizenship.

Opposition parties and civil society members in India criticize the new law as contrary to secular principles enshrined in India's constitution as it excludes Muslims.

With this new law, the government would grant Indian citizenship to those non-Muslim immigrants who had entered the country illegally until Dec 31, 2014. People in the northeastern states fear granting of citizenship to immigrants would endanger their status. **Agencies**

Over 80 Russian children may return home from Syria next year

MOSCOW

OVER 80 Russian children may return home from Syria next year, Russian Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights Anna Kuznetsova informed on Tuesday.

"We wanted to organize one more trip before the New Year, however, we ended up planning the children's return for the next year," Kuznetsova told reporters on Tuesday.

"We can return 84 children, however, the problem is that we are not allowed to separate brothers from sisters and sisters from brothers," she stated, adding that some children have all the necessary documents ready.

Kuznetsova said that she is currently cooperating with representatives of other states on the issue of the children's return from Syria. "We hope that we will be able to resolve this issue, the dialogue has been established," she concluded.

The problem of Russian children in Iraq and Syria emerged after certain Russian citizens left the country to join the Islamic State terrorist group (outlawed in Russia) in Iraq and Syria. They concluded marriages and fathered children, or brought their wives and children with them. Many of those children were orphaned as a result of hostilities. In 2017, terrorists started sending them to militant training camps for indoctrination and combat training, expecting that one day they would join their ranks. **Agencies**



New port help people get to Macao from Zhuhai in one minute

THE new Hengqin Port in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong province, is expected to be available for operation by Dec.20, 2019. Relevant executives disclosed the news on Dec.11 when the construction project of the new Hengqin Port and an integrated transportation hub was first introduced to the press.

Zhuhai city and the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) will jointly decide the official opening date of the new port after relevant approvals and legal procedures are completed.

The customs inspection building and the transportation platform on the south and north side of the building cover an area of 450,000 square meters, which is equivalent to the combined area of 63 soccer fields, according to Li Qizhi, project manager of China Construction Second Engineering Bureau Ltd., general construction contractor of the project.

It is expected that the daily crossings at the Hengqin Port will reach up to 222,000 once the new port begins operation and the new port is capable of handling 80 million passenger trips in a year, said Li, adding that the new port will make travel and exchanges between Zhuhai and Macao more convenient.

The new Hengqin Port will adopt a new customs clearance mode featuring joint inspection and one-stop clearance, disclosed Li, explaining that the new mode will enable passengers to pass the customs simply by getting through the joint inspection at three turnstiles.

The first turnstile is for the inspection of traffic permit information, the second turnstile is for verification of fingerprint and facial recognition, and the third turnstile is for information verification by the Macao side, according to Li.

Sufficient self-service channels will

also help enhance the convenience of passing the customs. "Passing the customs through self-service channels can help people get to Macao from Zhuhai in one minute if everything is handled smoothly," said Wang Yan, deputy director of the reform and development bureau of the management committee of Hengqin New Area.

Besides the functions of a port, the new Hengqin Port and the integrated transportation hub, which cover an area of about 1.31 million square meters and involve various kinds of infrastructure construction tasks, also serve as an integrated distribution hub and a city services provider.

The construction of the project includes a variety of smaller projects and diversified jobs, such as the construction of the customs joint inspection building, U-type ramp of the overpass, municipal roads, underground utility tunnels and the reconstruction of the Lotus Bridge.

Hengqin Island in Zhuhai faces Macao SAR across the river, with the closest distance between the two sides being less than 200 meters. The island is located 34 nautical miles from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The Zhuhai section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge extends directly to Hengqin Island, making the area by far the only pilot free trade zone connecting Chinese mainland with Hong Kong and Macao by both road and bridge.

Because of its distinctive geographical position, the development of Hengqin also has significant influence on that of Hong Kong and Macao. It is believed that the new Hengqin Port will serve well the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

People's Daily

Kremlin says Nord Stream 2 will be completed despite possible US sanctions

MOSCOW

THE US' sanctions will not suspend the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"We assume that the project (Nord Stream 2) will be completed," he said when asked whether the US' potential sanctions might suspend the creation of the gas pipeline.

Possible US sanctions against Nord Stream 2 violate international law and present a perfect example of unfair competition, according to Peskov (pictured).

"Such actions [possible US sanctions] are a direct violation of interna-

tional law, they present an ideal example of unfair competition and spread their artificial dominance in European markets, imposing more expensive and uncompetitive products on European consumers - more expensive natural gas," he told reporters.

In his opinion, "neither Moscow, nor the European capitals, Berlin or Paris like such actions".

The United States Senate approved the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) specifying the annual budget



and expenditures of the US Department of Defense for 2020 fiscal year (started on October 1), which obliges the administration to impose sanctions on the Russian Nord Stream 2 and TurkStream pipelines.

Earlier, on December 11, the House of Representatives voted for the document, and now President Donald Trump is expected to sign it.

The US leader expressed his willingness to sign the bill as soon as it is adopted by lawmakers.

The Nord Stream 2 project involves construction of two lines with a total capacity of 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year from the coast of Russia through the Baltic Sea to Germany. **Agencies**

Blair tells UK's Labour: Change or face dustbin of history

LONDON

FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Labour's most successful election winner, yesterday urged moderates in the party to grab back control from leader Jeremy Corbyn, whose brand of "quasi-revolutionary socialism" had failed.

Outgoing Labour leader Corbyn has called for a period of reflection on Thursday's election defeat, Labour's worst result since 1935, though a battle is now underway for control of the party with Corbyn's hard-left loyalists unwilling to let go.

"The takeover of the Labour Party by the far left turned it into a glorified protest movement with cult trimmings, utterly incapable of being a credible government," said Blair, who won three elections and was prime minister from 1997 to 2007.

"The result has brought shame on us."

Labour won just 203 seats in the election, down 59, and saw its vote share fall by 7.8 percentage points to 32.2% while Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives won 365 seats, up 47, on 43.6% of the vote.

Blair said that few would now bet against a decade of Conservative rule given the state of Labour, and that unless the party changed course it faced the threat of never winning power again.

"The choice for Labour is to renew itself as the serious, progressive, non Conservative competitor for power in British politics, or retreat from such an ambition, in which case over time it will be replaced," Blair said.



Former British prime minister Tony Blair gives a speech on the future of the Labour Party and progressive politics at the Hallam Conference Centre in central London yesterday. (AP)

He chided Corbyn for leading Labour to defeat with a set of ideas that voters had no interest in.

"He personified politically an idea, a brand, of quasi-revolutionary socialism, mixing far left economic policy with deep hostility to Western foreign policy," he said.

"(This) never has appealed to traditional Labour voters, never will appeal to them, and represented for them a combination of misguided ideology and terminal ineptitude that they found insulting," Blair said.

"It's essentially a cry of rage against the system. It's not a program for government. To win power we need self discipline, not self indulgence."

Corbyn, beside a promise of another EU referendum in which he said he would be neutral, offered voters the most radical socialist government

in British history with higher public spending, sweeping rationalization and taxes on the wealthy.

Supporters of Corbyn say Blair betrayed the working classes by shifting the party to the right and undermined faith in politicians by supporting the US-led 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Blair said Corbyn's complicated and equivocal stance on Brexit had displeased both opponents and advocates of Britain's departure from the European Union.

"We pursued a path of almost comic indecision, alienated both sides of the debate leaving our voters without guidance or leadership," Blair said.

"The absence of leadership on what was obviously the biggest question facing the country then reinforced all the other doubts about Jeremy Corbyn."

Agencies

South Sudan's Kiir says unity government will be formed

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's President Salva Kiir said he had reached a deal with former rebel leader Riek Machar on Tuesday to form a transitional unity government even if they fail to resolve all their differences before a new deadline.

Kiir (pictured) and Machar signed a peace deal last year under pressure from the United Nations, United States and countries in the region to end a five-year civil war and agreed to form a unity government by Nov 12.

But the two leaders pushed back the deadline by 100 days, prompting Washington to recall its ambassador and raising fears the civil war that created the worst refugee crisis in Africa since the Rwandan genocide might resume.

"We said that after 100 days we must form the government of national unity. If the arrangements are not complete, we shall form a transitional government of national unity to implement the outstanding issues," Kiir told reporters after three days of talks with Machar in the capital Juba.

"The ceasefire will continue to hold and no one from us is willing to go back to war," Kiir said.

Both sides blame each other for not meeting milestones stipulated by the peace deal, especially the integration of different fighting forces.



Agencies

Kenya launches extended railway's freight service, inland container depot

NAIROBI

KENYA on Tuesday launched the Nairobi-Naivasha Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) cargo service and an inland container depot (ICD) that are expected to revolutionize transport of bulk cargo to the east Africa nation's hinterland and neighboring countries.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Chinese State Councilor Wang Yong, were among dignitaries who graced the launch of the SGR phase 2A freight service and dry port located in the resort town of Naivasha.

"Today, we mark the commencement of the freight train services to the Naivasha Inland Container Depot; thus making an unequivocal statement that we as a people are ready to ascend," said Kenyatta during the launch in Nairobi.

The freight service launch came after the Nairobi-Naivasha SGR passenger



service was inaugurated on October 16 this year. The 120km Nairobi-Naivasha railway is an extension of the Chinese-built modern railway that connects Kenya's coastal port city Mombasa to the capital Nairobi. The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR was launched in 2017.

Kenyatta (pictured) said the commencement of freight transport along the Nairobi-Naivasha SGR corridor that is part of the proposed Mombasa-Nairobi-Kisumu/Malaba SGR project, will stimulate investments and economic growth in the Kenyan hinterland.

"We equally remain hopeful that other economic and commercial ventures will be established along the line, which together will trigger the creation of productive employment, and in the process reduce poverty and inequality across the whole country," said Kenyatta.

He said that operationalization of the SGR phase 2A freight service and Naivasha's dry port will boost Kenya's status as a transport and logistics hub while enhancing regional integration.

Kenyatta said that two trains will on a daily basis serve the Naivasha ICD while two shipping lines had already committed to delivering their bulk cargo directly from the port of Mombasa to Naivasha.

Chinese State Councilor Wang Yong, also the special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, congratulated Kenya for the launch of the new freight transport service. **Xinhua**

China airs Xinjiang truths

CHINA'S state broadcasters consecutively aired three documentaries from Thursday, December 5, illustrating the anti-terrorism efforts in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, a terrorist organization East Turkistan Islamic Movement's (ETIM) role in plotting terrorist attacks in China and US hypocrisy on human rights issues. The documentaries sparked wide discussions on domestic and overseas media.

Many netizens commented that the documentaries disclosed rare video footage on terrorist attacks that Xinjiang had suffered, fully reflecting the severe threat of terrorism Xinjiang was facing. They also said Western media that criticized China's Xinjiang policies should watch these videos carefully.

But many Western media, espe-

cially those which tried to hype the "leaked documents" on vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang in recent weeks, kept silent over the heated discussions on the Chinese mainland generated by the documentaries.

Chinese mainland experts said that some Western media outlets selectively report what fits their stereotypes and interests. These outlets also went great lengths to slander on Xinjiang. Their silence on the documentaries showed their double standards in regards to China's Xinjiang issues, they said.

Two of the three documentaries were newly made and aired on CGTN on Thursday and Saturday respectively, telling of the overall counter-terrorism work in Xinjiang and ETIM's role in inciting terrorist attacks in China's Xinjiang and

other Chinese cities.

One documentary, initially aired in April 2018, was streamed again on CGTN on Friday night, deploring the human rights crisis created by the US in the Middle East since 2003.

Topics of "New documentaries on Xinjiang's anti-terrorism work" and "Unveiling the black hand behind Xinjiang's terrorism" were viewed 390 million times and 230 million times respectively on Sina Weibo, China's Twitter-like social media.

CGTN also uploaded these two documentaries on YouTube and the first episode, "Fighting terrorism in Xinjiang" was watched more

than 150,000 times.

Some internet users commented on Sina Weibo that they had visited Xinjiang and enjoyed the splendid landscape, friendly atmosphere and safety, but they had no idea that Xinjiang used to suffer such grim terrorism and extremism threats.

Leonard Brownies, one internet user from abroad commented on Twitter after watching one documentary that "This is FACT. Some stupid Western fake news media should see this."

The documentaries were "very touching and reflect truth on Xinjiang in a clear way," Erkin Oncan, a Turkish reporter, told the Global

Times.

"Unlike the Western propaganda news, the documentaries tell what was really happening in Xinjiang by original videos and remarks of witnesses and participants of terrorist attacks."

Pretending to be blind

Few Western media outlets reported discussions about the documentaries on the Chinese internet as of press time.

This is in sharp contrast to extensive coverage by Western media such as the I7 media partners of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) on "leaked government files" on Xinjiang.

Erkin said that he was not surprised to see many Western media "pretend to be blind" at the Chinese documentaries as their reports on Xinjiang were in line with "some Western countries' political agenda, not with the principles of journalism."

By making public rare video footage of terrorist attacks including the Urumqi riots on July 5, 2009 and the Tiananmen Square terror attack on October 28, 2013, "the documentaries tear the hypocrisy mask off the US," said Li Wei, a counter-terrorism expert at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing.

"It claims to protect human rights

International partners urge Somalis to embrace dialogue ahead of 2020 polls

MOGADISHU

INTERNATIONAL partners on Tuesday called on Somalis to embrace dialogue to agree on a way forward and to cooperate to realize the priorities agreed for the year ahead.

The partners including the Africa Union, UN, EU and the U.S. among others said the leaders including institutions and communities should work together provide a conducive environment for universal polls, finalize the constitution and fight al-Shabab in 2020.

"Somalia's objectives are achievable with the strong collaboration of all stakeholders and 2020 has the potential to be a historic year for Somali," the partners said in a joint statement issued after holding consultations in the town of Kismayo.

The partners who visited Jubaland, southern Somalia, in the third of a series of consultative meetings in Federal Member States said they reflected on the progress made this year and looking ahead to 2020 as a critical year for Somalia.

"We are here to engage with a range of stakeholders and to hear their views on how key national priorities can be achieved in 2020," they said.

The priorities, they said, include preparations for "one-person, one-vote" elections, finalization of the Federal Constitution, continued progress towards debt relief, and the fight against al-Shabab.

Somalia, with the help of AMISOM and the UN, is making urgent preparations for universal suffrage elections, which will be the first of its kind after more than two decades since the outbreak of the civil war that followed the collapse of the Somali government in 1992.

According to the UN, Somalia last held one-person, one-vote elections in March 1969 when the government was overthrown in a bloodless military coup.

Parliamentary and presidential elections took place in late 2016 and early 2017 through a system of indirect suffrage.

The partners said the political situation in Jubaland remains unsettled but noted that Jubaland and its people will have their role to play in the work to achieve Somalia's goals in 2020, adding that they did not wish their views to be overlooked.

The partners said the visit afforded them the opportunity to understand directly from the stakeholders in Jubaland the issues that continue to divide them and what solutions may be possible through dialogue, pragmatism and compromise, and prioritization of the national interest.

"Without a peaceful resolution, the Jubaland situation poses risks for achievement of critical national priorities. We are grateful to the representatives we met for sharing their ideas," they said.



Without a peaceful resolution, the Jubaland situation poses risks for achievement of critical national priorities. We are grateful to the representatives we met for sharing their ideas

but supports terrorist groups and interferes in China's domestic affairs." For some Western media and US politicians, who know clearly the previous severe terrorist threat in Xinjiang and still chose to smear China's anti-terrorism policies in the region, they would ignore the documentaries on purpose, Li asserted.

"They give no care to the truth but want to hype Xinjiang issue to make troubles for China," he said.

"These documentaries disclosed many rare and original video footages of terrorist attacks happened in Xinjiang and other cities in China. China used to release some information on terrorist attacks but images of the documentaries are more powerful than words."

Global Times

The
Guardian

SPORT



Tanzania's new military reserves perform acrobatics in an event held in Morogoro last weekend. The show served as an opportunity for the reserves to showcase fitness they acquired in five-month training, which took place in the region. Major General, Martin Busungu, Morogoro's regional and district security officials graced the event. : MICHAEL ICHAEI SIKAPUNDWA

TTCL launches application for watching movies

BY HENRY MWANGONDE

THE Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) yesterday launched an application that allows its customers to install and watch movies from various film industries without internet connection.

Through T-Burudani, people can download the app and watch movies from Bollywood, Hollywood, Nollywood and Bongo movies through their phones.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TTCL Director General Waziri Kindamba said the launching of the app was part of celebrating the coming festive season with its customers.

"We are also launching a campaign to go out in the streets to address various challenges that our customers are facing and this will see our managers go down to the streets to listen to grievances," he said.

The campaign is also aimed at increasing the number of customers as well as interacting with them on the challenges that face them.

Kindamba added that during this festive season from December 20, TTCL shops will be open for seven days a week to let customers

who have not undergone the biometric Simcard registration to do so.

In 2017, the Parliament approved a new legislation that transformed TTCL into a fully established state-of-the-art business corporation.

The law was aimed at changing TTCL from a company to a corporation, with an aim of making the previously poorly performing company to compete with other telecom companies in the market.

The Tanzania Telecommunication Corporation Act, 2017 repealed the Tanzania Telecommunications Company Incorporation Act, 2002 to make provisions for the establishment of the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation, management of the strategic telecommunications infrastructure as well commercial and economic viability of telecommunications services, among others.

For the past 15 years, TTCL was owned by the government with 65 per cent and Bharti Airtel from India had 35 per cent.

But the joint venture came to an end in June 2016 after the government had taken the shares by 100 per cent after paying 14.7bn/- to Bharti Airtel.

Yanga rope in new defender

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA'S soccer giants, Young Africans SC (Yanga), yesterday boosted their defense by signing Adeyun Saleh on a two year-contract.

Yanga's information officer Hassan Bumbuli said the player has been signed following the club's technical panel's recommendations.

The official pointed out he is confident the defender will help the club in its quest to win the Mainland Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup.

Bumbuli said Saleh, who was last on the books of JKT Tanzania, was Yanga's second signing of the mini-transfer window, the first one being midfielder Tariq Seif who was playing in Egypt. He said Yanga are delighted to



Yanga's information officer Hassan Bumbuli.

have the service of the player who has knowledge of the local league.

Bumbuli said Saleh has what it takes to play for the historical premier league win-

ners.

"Saleh knows the domestic league well and as the club we are delighted to have his services, he is one of good players in our league," he said.

The information officer also asked his club's supporters to keep their fingers crossed as the team is in the process of introducing other top players.

"We are doing everything possible so that we can strengthen our team, we are signing players on recommendations from our technical panel, our supporters should keep their fingers crossed as we are in the final process of securing the services of other players" he said.

Yanga were in the past two weeks reported to be in financial problems, the development which forced some of the club's foreign players including Ugandan Juma Balinya to part ways with the club.

However, the club has managed to maintain the services of their players who include Ghanaian defender Lamine Moro who was linked with a move to rivals Simba.



Tanzanian model, Winifrida Bryson (C), who emerged as winner of a world pageant involving people with disabilities, pictured with Dar es Salaam's Capital Radio presenters, Hava Hassan (R) and Sophia Rajab, when the model toured the institution's offices to hold an interview in a program known as 'Lete Raha' on Tuesday. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

Pacers rally late to snap Lakers' road winning streak at 14

INDIANAPOLIS

MALCOLM Brogdon saw an opening and took it Tuesday night.

And just like that, the Los Angeles Lakers' long winning streak away from home was over.

Brogdon drove past Dwight Howard with 36.4 seconds left, scoring the tiebreaking basket on a nifty reverse layup to help the Indiana Pacers protect their home court with a 105-102 victory over the NBA's best road team.

"We knew when we threw a punch, they would punch back," Domantas Sabonis said. "We just stuck together."

Eventually, the Pacers threw enough scoring jabs to earn their fourth straight victory – perhaps their most impressive all season.

The Lakers (24-4) came into the game with the league's best record and 14 straight wins on the road, the second-longest streak in franchise history and two wins short of their record-setting mark from 1971-72.

But even LeBron James couldn't bail them out with All-Star forward Anthony Davis missing the game because of a sprained right ankle.

Yes, James scored 20 points and had nine rebounds and nine assists, but he missed a step-back 3-pointer with 11.7 seconds left that would have given the Lakers the lead. A replay review overturned a call and gave the Pacers the ball.

Sabonis then made one of two free throws to finish with 26 points and 10 rebounds.

Rajon Rondo and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope each missed a shot before time expired as the Lakers



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) makes a pass as he's defended by Indiana Pacers guard Aaron Holiday (3) and center Myles Turner (33) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019. (AP Photo)

desperately tried to force overtime.

"Throughout the winning streak, we were able to keep our composure, whether we were up or down, still being able to make a game of it, which we did tonight," James said. "But sometimes the ball doesn't bounce your way."

That was certainly true Tuesday.

After leading most of the first half, the Lakers trailed most of the second

half until a 9-0 spurt midway through the fourth quarter turned a five-point deficit into a 95-91 lead.

It didn't last long.

Brogdon's mid-range jumper with 2:20 left tied the score at 100. Myles Turner broke the tie by making two free throws with 1:59 left.

Nineteen seconds later, James' free throws tied it up again and that's how it

stayed until Brogdon took matters into his own hands and charged right past Howard and deftly used the rim to protect the ball for the basket.

"We trust him with the ball in his hands and he's been making tough shots for us," Sabonis said. "He's been big for us all year."

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles,

the Los Angeles Clippers are one player short of finally fielding their entire team. And it can't come too soon for Paul George and Kawhi Leonard.

George scored 24 points, Leonard added 20 and the Clippers returned home after two weeks away to beat the Phoenix Suns 120-99 on Tuesday night. They were only missing JaMychal Green after having George and Leonard in and out of the lineup since the season began.

"We can start to get into a rhythm with everybody on the floor," Leonard said. "We can see what our rotation is."

The Clippers went 4-2 on their recent road trip, which matched their longest of the season. Leonard didn't play in the finale, a loss Saturday at Chicago.

But he came back strong at Staples Center, teaming with George in a dominant third quarter that saw the Clippers stretch their lead from five points to 21 by the time it was over. The two superstars combined to score 18 points in a 32-16 run that sent the Clippers into the fourth leading 90-69.

"We just couldn't figure out the Clippers' zone," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "We were a bit tired, playing in three time zones in four days. Our starting group just passed it around and was hoping for something to happen."

Lou Williams added 20 points for the Clippers, scoring their first 11 of the fourth – including three 3-pointers.

"When he gets it going there is no shot that he can't make," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "That was a good stretch for us. Lou's offense allowed us to keep Paul and Kawhi off the floor and give them some rest."

Ivica Zubac had 12 points in helping the team win its 12th in a row over the Suns in Los Angeles.

Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 19 points and Deandre Ayton added 18 points and 12 rebounds in his return from a 25-game NBA suspension for Phoenix, which lost its fourth in a row.

"He still has to get in his rhythm, so I'm not going to judge him too hard," Oubre said. "At the end of the day, he's one piece of this puzzle."

Ayton played on opening night, scoring 18 points against Sacramento, and then sat out as punishment for violating the league's anti-drug program after testing positive for a diuretic. He showed little rust in notching his second double-double of the season while playing 24 minutes.

Ayton also twisted an ankle, although he said it was fine after the game.

"At first I was like, this court is like a soccer field," Ayton said. "Then I started to get my second wind."

Ayton calmed his nerves on the 1 1/2-hour bus ride to the arena.

"It gave me enough time to get all them butterflies out," he said. "Once I stepped on the floor I knew I was going to be all right."

AP

Pompeo expresses support for Arsenal player in criticism of China's treatment of Uighurs

WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday came out in support of Arsenal player Mesut Ozil for his criticism of China's treatment of ethnic Uighur Muslims, saying Beijing can censor the team's football games but cannot hide rights violations.

The Arsenal midfielder, a German Muslim of Turkish origin, last week in social media posts called Uighurs "warriors who resist persecution" and criticized both China's crackdown and the silence of Muslims in response.

China's state broadcaster CCTV on Sunday removed Arsenal's Premier League game against Manchester City from its broadcast schedule.

"China's Communist Party propaganda outlets can censor Mesut Ozil and Arsenal's game all season long, but the truth will prevail," Pompeo tweeted. "The CCP can't hide its gross #humanrights violations perpetrated against Uighurs and other religious faiths from the world."

The United Nations and human rights groups estimate that between 1 million and 2 million people, mostly ethnic Uighur Muslims, have been detained in harsh conditions in Xinjiang as part of what Beijing calls an anti-terrorism campaign.

REUTERS

China has repeatedly denied any mistreatment of Uighurs.

On Monday, China's Foreign Ministry said Ozil "had been completely deceived by fake news and false statements."

Washington has been ratcheting up its criticism of Beijing over Uighurs simultaneously as it has continued its trade deal negotiations. U.S. President Donald Trump in November signed into law congressional legislation backing protesters in Hong Kong despite angry objections from China.

Earlier this month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation requiring a stronger response to Beijing's treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority.

What started as demonstrations against a now-withdrawn bill allowing extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China has morphed into calls for greater democratic freedoms and nearly six months of sometimes violent protests in Hong Kong. Beijing has condemned the unrest and blamed foreign interference.

Arsenal on Saturday tried to distance itself from Ozil's comments after he posted messages on Twitter and Instagram. "The content he expressed is entirely Ozil's personal opinion," the official account of Arsenal said in a post on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform.

Flamengo come from behind to book Club World Cup final slot

DOHA

BRUNO Henrique scored one goal and made two more to book Flamengo's place in the final of the Club World Cup as the Brazilian giants came from behind to beat Asian champions Al Hilal 3-1 in Doha on Tuesday.

Salem Aldawsari gave the Saudi club a deserved lead in the first half of this semi-final on a rare rainy night at the Khalifa International Stadium, but Flamengo woke up after the interval and equalised through Giorgian De Arrascaeta in the 49th minute.

Bruno Henrique then headed home after 78 minutes and the Rio club made sure of their win when the same player's low cross was turned into his own net by defender Ali Albulayhi with eight minutes to play.

The Brazilians will play the winner of Wednesday's second semi-final in Doha, when Liverpool face Mexican club Monterrey.

"This is the cherry on the cake on the season that Flamengo have had," said Portuguese coach Jorge Jesus, the former Benfica boss who also had a spell in charge at Al Hilal last year.

"I don't care whether we play Liverpool or the Mexican side. We didn't think about Liverpool before playing Al Hilal but I am always impressed



Flamengo will face Liverpool or Monterrey in the Club World Cup final after beating Al Hilal 3-1 in Tuesday's semi-final (AFP Photo)

with European football and I believe they are the favourites.

"When we came here to Qatar we wanted to win the Club World Cup, and now we want it even more."

- Liverpool rematch? -

Fresh from winning the Copa Libertadores and the Brazilian title in the last month, Flamengo are hoping to win this trophy for the first time.

However, they did win the old Intercontinental Cup in 1981, a side

captained by Zico defeating Liverpool 3-0 in Tokyo. A rematch between the clubs now looks to be on the cards, unless Monterrey can pull off a major shock.

However, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp -- who was expected to attend this game before watching his own club's second string play a League Cup tie against Aston Villa on television -- will have identified weaknesses his side might be able to

exploit in a potential final.

Indeed, it looked halfway through this game that there might be another shock, with Flamengo in danger of losing in the semi-finals, just as River Plate had done last year in going out to Emirati side Al-Ain at the same stage.

Al Hilal won the Asian Champions League last month and boast the likes of ex-France striker Bafetimbi Gomis and diminutive Italian striker Sebastian Giovinco in their ranks.

They were the better team in the first half and deserved the lead given to them in the 18th minute when Salem met a low ball in from the right with a first-time strike that deflected off defender Pablo Mari into the net.

Jesus managed to rouse his side at the interval, though, and they needed just four minutes to haul themselves level when a lovely move ended with Bruno Henrique squaring for the Uruguayan De Arrascaeta to score.

Bruno Henrique, who is a Brazilian international forward, then ended any possibility of the game going to extra time when he met Raffinha's cross with a thumping header to make it 2-1 before forcing the own goal that made sure of the victory to the delight of the several thousand travelling Brazilian supporters.

AFP

Serie A chief apologises for anti-racism ape artwork

MILAN

SERIE A chief executive Luigi De Siervo has apologised for the league's widely criticised anti-racism campaign which featured three side-by-side paintings of apes under the slogan "No to Racism."

The league has come in for heavy criticism from its own clubs and anti-racism organisation Fare Network, after publishing the paintings produced by Italian artist Simone Fugazzotto. The artwork was set to be exhibited permanently at the entrance of the league's headquarters in order to "underline the commitment of the world of football against all forms of discrimination."

Fugazzotto defended the artwork, stating that he "sought to turn around the words of racists," but the league's chief executive has admitted the campaign was wide of the mark and that a new proposition will be put forward early next year.

(Agencies)

"I express sincere apologies for the artwork that was presented yesterday. I realised it was inappropriate," De Siervo said in a statement.

"What cannot be questioned is the strong and constant condemnation by Serie A against all forms of discrimination and racism, and we are committed to eradicate this from our beloved league.

"The league is working on its official anti-racism campaign, which cannot be identified with Simone Fugazzotto's work, and will be presented by the end of February."

The row over the campaign comes less than two weeks after Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku and Roma's Chris Smalling condemned a front page from Italian newspaper Corriere dello Sport previewing the Serie A clash between the two sides. The page featured images of Lukaku and Smalling alongside the headline "Black Friday."

Rashford's rise: From academy high flier to Man United icon

MANCHESTER

LOUIS van Gaal is credited with unearthing Marcus Rashford, but it was another Manchester United manager who introduced him to the first team. Rashford was barely 16 when he was asked to make the short walk from the academy building at Carrington to the senior training pitches for the first time.

"It was under David Moyes, and it was a group of us that went over," Rashford told ESPN. "It was an amazing feeling. I remember the training session: We didn't actually touch the ball. We were just doing shape and stuff like that. But then we go back to our own age group, and what you learned from that little 15 or 20 minutes is priceless as a young academy player."

"Those moments really do start to add up, and when you start training with them more regularly, you pick up more things, more things to learn from. That's how you become a first-team player."

Rashford's journey at United began almost 10 years before that call-up from Moyes. By age 6, he was attracting attention from professional clubs, and after brief spells at Manchester City, Everton, Newcastle, Crewe, Accrington and Liverpool, his mum, Melanie, was asked if he could attend a six-week trial at United.

"Before I came to United, there was, like, loads of different clubs," Rashford said. "Obviously, my mum didn't really know much about football. Obviously, we supported Man United. It was my brothers, really, who managed to categorise good academies from bad academies, and then the final decision just came down to which club do you love and want to play for?"

"Once I went to United, it was perfect. It was everything that you wish for as a kid. That's how it all began, really. Whether you leave the club or you stay here forever, that feeling never leaves you for your whole life. People say that once you play for Man United, you're always a red, and for me, that's true."

Before Rashford and his teammates started training on the indoor pitch at The Cliff, United's training ground in Salford, they sometimes caught five or 10 minutes of the first team's session. He was drawn to watch goalkeeper Tim Howard, one of his favourite players growing up.

"It was unbelievable," Rashford said. "It's little things like that, those experiences, that you might not get in other academies at such a young age. But I think United are just clever in the way they do it. They expose you to it, but, like, it's not too much. It's always an excitement thing. When you



Marcus Rashford

see them training, your determination and everything goes up another level.

"I think it's important to keep that connection between the academy and the first team as close as possible because when you're young, sometimes it's difficult to see what the end looks like, what your end goal is. If you're in and around the first team, you can see players that have done exactly what you're trying to do, and it just makes things a bit clearer for you. But as a kid, nothing is better than seeing your idols training or playing matches. There's nothing that can match that feeling."

From a young age, Rashford was deemed a "high flier" by the coaches at Carrington, but even they were caught out by his acceleration from

youth team football to the senior side. He began the 2015-16 season hoping to cement his place in the under-18 team and ended it playing in an FA Cup final and going to Euro 2016 with England. His United debut came about by chance after Anthony Martial was injured in the warm-up ahead of a Europa League game against FC Midtjylland. He scored twice, and when picked again by Van Gaal to face Arsenal three days later, he scored twice more.

"It was unfortunate for Anthony that he got injured, but it was an opportunity to speed up the process for me playing in the first team," Rashford said. "Because of the way it happened, I wasn't thinking much about anything. I just wanted to enjoy the moment. It was something special for

the rest of my career. I just wanted to enjoy it.

"I think I would have made my debut, just later in the season. It was Leicester or Watford away about four months [earlier]. I was on the bench but didn't manage to get on. You could see I was getting closer and closer to the first team and maybe getting a game."

Nearly four years on from his debut, Rashford has played 191 senior games and scored 58 goals. Still only 22, he has winner's medals in the FA Cup, League Cup and Europa League, and he helped England reach the semifinals of the 2018 World Cup. He has netted 10 goals and added four assists in 17 Premier League appearances so far this season. The academy building he used to get changed in has his image splashed across the walls alongside other notable graduates such as Sir Bobby Charlton, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and David Beckham.

"It's a bit overwhelming, but when you look at it, it's just, like, the process of development," Rashford said. "The players I looked up to are obviously older now. The younger players look up to us. That transition happens so fast. Until I understood that, my perception of that picture changed a little bit. It became a bit more normal. I understand what it does for the kids."

"When I was younger and would see people like Beckham and Scholes on the walls, it gives you that determination every time you went to training. You would want to reach those heights. You know they are on the other side of the building, and they are training every day and working hard. You would go and watch them on a weekend. You would be so far away from them, but you were so close at the same time. That is what those pictures in the academy give you."

Guardiola says 'why not' on Arteta to Arsenal

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

PEP Guardiola has conceded there is no reason for Mikel Arteta to turn down the Arsenal job.

Arteta is in talks about becoming the next manager at the Emirates and Guardiola admits it will be difficult for the Spaniard to reject the role to stay as his assistant at Manchester City.

"It is a good argument -- why not?" said Guardiola, ahead of City's trip to Oxford United in the Carabao Cup on Wednesday.

"It is uncomfortable for me. It is a question for Mikel, I am not in his brain. We talk about it a little bit but his feelings are his feelings."

"If he decides to move I'll wish him all the best, for him, his family and for his professional future. I will beat him -- that's a joke!"

Sources confirmed to ESPN that talks between Arteta and the club continued on Tuesday, with the Spaniard speaking to Josh Kroenke, the son of Arsenal owner Stan Kroenke, with things progressing well and the club hopeful Arteta can take charge for this weekend's match against Everton.

Sources added that Arteta is keen to take the job but details need to be ironed out before that happens.

including his compensation package which is still being discussed.

Arteta's potential departure would leave Guardiola's coaching team short as City look to close the gap on Liverpool at the top of the Premier League and make inroads in the Champions League.

Guardiola has said in the past he would recommend Arteta for the top job at City once he leaves but suggested he has not discussed when that might be with his No.2.

"Do you want to sack me?" joked Guardiola, who has a contract until 2021.

"He was honest with me, he explained everything that happened, the steps but after that I didn't ask what you want to do. I don't want to be involved. I am a guy that [lets] the people live with freedom."

"I said many times, it's the same with the players, if they have other desires or wishes whatever, what can we do? We are not going to tell him, stay, stay stay, if he doesn't want to stay."

"He knows exactly what we think about him, at the club, after that, we cannot do more. I think the club has done everything and we cannot do anymore."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Barcelona ramps up security as Catalan separatists target Clasico

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Yanga agree deal with Azam FC to sign Nchimbi



Ditram Nchimbi

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) have reached an agreement with Azam FC over the transfer of the latter's forward, Ditram Nchimbi, with the player's loan deal with Police Tanzania set to be cut short.

According to Azam FC's

club information officer, Jaffary Idd, the two clubs have now agreed a fee after some negotiation. While the price tag is as yet unknown, previous reports claimed Azam were looking for around 30m/-.

"Azam FC and Yanga have reached an agreement for the transfer of Nchimbi, the two

clubs had successful negotiation and after discussion with the player, a deal to compensate Azam FC was reached. We wish him well," Iddi said.

The 24-year-old, who has six months remaining on his current contract with Azam, has already agreed personal terms with Yanga and will complete his

move to the side upon returning from duties with Mainland Tanzania side, Kilimanjaro Stars, in the ongoing 2019 CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup in Kampala.

The striker impressed for Police Tanzania this summer and is highly regarded by Yanga supporters.

He won the admiration after notching five goals in the league, including a hat-trick in a 3-3 league thriller when Police Tanzania took on Yanga at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga recently lost Juma Balinya and Sadney Urikhob, and whilst they have already added Tariq Seif Kiakala to their ranks, completing a cut-price deal for Nchimbi would only help improve their depth in attack.

Nchimbi will be the club's second signing since the return of interim head coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa, who took over from the fired head coach Congolese Mwinyi Zahera last month.

He was signed by Azam FC at the start of the 2018/19 season but could not break into the first team squad under the then head coach Hans van der Pluijm. He was loaned to Mwadui FC during the mid-season transfer window.

At Mwadui FC, Nchimbi formed a deadly striking partnership with Salim Aiyece, the latter ended

up with 20 league goals thanks to Nchimbi's generous contribution. Despite that, there was still no place for him at Azam FC at the start of this season. He was sent to another loan spell, this time to newly promoted Police Tanzania.

A hat-trick and an injury crisis saw him being handed a late call up to the national team 'Taifa Stars' squad that was preparing to face Sudan in the return leg of Africa Nations Championship (CHAN).

He made his first national team appearance when he came on as a second half substitute in an international friendly against Rwanda, which took place in Kigali.

He was handed his first competitive start for Taifa Stars against Sudan where he lived up to the hype with a goal and an assist to send Tanzania to CHAN 2020 finals, to be hosted by Cameroon.

He followed up with yet another good performance against Equatorial Guinea when he set up midfielder Abubakar Salum's last minute winner to earn Tanzania's Taifa Stars maximum points in the opening match of the 2021 AFCON qualifiers.

Equatorial Guinea went down 2-1 to Taifa Stars in the continental tournament's qualifiers which took place in Dar es Salaam.

TODAY @ 18:00

THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
12:00 Mpya
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 Bongo Hits
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Bongo Hits

eNewz is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Australia boss tells MCG not to play too safe with pitch

MELBOURNE

CRICKET Australia boss Kevin Roberts has urged Melbourne Cricket Ground staff not to "overreact" to the abandonment of a domestic match due to a dangerous pitch by producing a flat wicket for next week's Boxing Day test against New Zealand.

A Sheffield Shield match at the MCG was halted last week because of a dangerous surface on which several Western Australia batsmen took body blows from deliveries that reared up at them.

The abandonment was embarrassing for groundsman Matt Page and Melbourne Cricket Club, but Roberts backed ground staff to produce a wicket that would challenge both batsman and bowler.

"We're really keen to ensure that the MCC doesn't overreact to the situation in the last Shield game," he told reporters in Melbourne on Wednesday.

"The great news was that no players were injured in that situation. We learned a lot from it ...

"So we're confident that there won't be an overreaction, and that will see a better balance between bat and ball at the MCG."

The MCG's drop-in wicket has been under scrutiny since it was given a "poor" rating by the International Cricket Council after a dull draw between Australia and England in the 2017-18 Ashes series.

In last year's annual Boxing Day test, which begins on Dec. 26, India beat Australia by 137 runs, and the pitch was rated "average". But the wicket was still criticised by media pundits and fans for offering bowlers little assistance on the opening day.

Roberts said the fresh wicket for the second test between Australia and New Zealand would have more grass than the previous two Boxing Day strips.

"Other than that last Shield game, the condition of pitches at the MCG has been on a significant increase over the last period of time since Matt and the team took the concrete base out from under the pitches and replaced it with sand," he said.

"The feedback from the curators is that it feels different to roll, the feedback from players is that it feels different and even sounds different to play on."

"It sounds like a proper turf wicket now rather than something that's more like a concrete deck, so we're really optimistic about Boxing Day."

Australia lead the three-match series against New Zealand 1-0 after winning the pink-ball day-night opener by 296 runs in Perth.

REUTERS

Mao's ENPPI stretches winning streak



Himid Mao

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA midfielder, Himid Mao, turned out for a resurgent ENPPI that continued their recent impressive form with a 1-0 win over Al Masry in match day eight of the Egyptian Premier League played on Tuesday evening.

Mao started and lasted for the entire duration of the match in what was his fourth consecutive start in the league since the appointment of a new coach.

Mohamed Sheriff scored the all-important goal one minute into the second half to ensure ENPPI clock a third consecutive league victory and move to 10th place, three points ahead of their visitors, Al Masry.

The recent performance of the team bodes well for Mao, who missed out on Tanzania's national team 'Taifa Stars' 2021 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying matches against Equatorial Guinea and Libya last month.

The Taifa Stars deputy captain is expected to be back in the national team set up for the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers in March.

Mao is the only Tanzanian player in the Egyptian Premier League this season following

the exit of Yahya Zaydi and Shiza Kichuya who dropped to the First Division League with Pharco.

Mao, former Azam FC player, moved to Egypt in 2018 when he signed a three-year deal with Petrojet.

He quickly established himself as one of the key players at Petrojet who were relegated at the end of the 2018/19 season.

ENPPI signed him immediately after the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations finals. The club had a rough start to the season, earning just one point from their opening four games.

Their first league game came against heavyweights Pyramids FC where Petrojet suffered a heavy 4-0 defeat.

Then in game-week two the Petroleum Corporate-owned side held Tala'a El-Geish to a 1-1 draw to secure their only point.

Their last two games were equally disappointing as they lost 2-1 to Smouha before narrowly losing against Entag El-Harby.

As a result of this poor run, coach Ali Maher resigned from his position and in came Mamdouh Al Mohamad who has reversed the club's fortunes.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

Simba SC targets success in ASFC

VODACOM Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, have said they are leaving no stone unturned in their quest to win all elite domestic competitions.

Simba SC, through the outfit's assistant coach Suleiman Matola, said the team is preparing well for the coming Federation Cup

and also defend the premier league trophy.

The coach pointed out they are ready for all the assignments which will come their way.

Matola who is drilling the team with his boss Sven Vandebroek further said he is enjoying working with the Belgian tactician.

The coach said although some of his players are with the senior national team, he is happy with the players who are with the team and expect a full squad next week.

"Everybody in our team is now fresh both physically and psychologically as we start our preparations for our coming

games against Lipuli FC, KMC FC, Ndanda and then Yanga, I'm sure by the time we play our traditional rivals everything will be ready," he said.

Simba enjoy the driver's seat in the Vodacom Premier League with 25 points, two points ahead of second-placed Kagera Sugar.

The assistant coach said his

side is desperate for maximum points as any slip will see second-placed Kagera Sugar take the lead.

"At this stage of the league, it's better to keep on winning any game which comes on your way, we are working very hard so as we can realize our dream of defending the premier league trophy and win the FA Cup," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

